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Deaf Children Have Normal Needs

Herald Tribune Chicago Ill. Sun 5-11-58

That's P. S. 47's Basic Premise

By Harriet C. Suydam

P. S. 47, a large, brick building which faces south on 43d St. near the corner of Second Ave., bears a marked resemblance to a number of other New York City schools. Its unique feature, however, are classrooms wired for sound. Its 550 students, who range in age from two to sixteen, like other city students, vary in intelligence and behavior. Yet they too are wired for sound. Each wears a hearing aid. P. S. 47 is the only public elementary and junior high school in the world which is almost exclusively for the deaf.

Last week the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Of its 5,000 alumni, 500 came from many parts of the country to attend the $10-a-plate dinner last night at the Park Sheraton Hotel. Their principal speaker was a graduate of the school. He, like other graduates, has learned that a world without sound—voices, music or a classroom bell—is one that he can enjoy and in which he can be successful.

Teaches Confidence

It is P. S. 47's function to teach this lesson while it also teaches the matters of academia, including reading, history, mathematics, and singing. Its basic tools are a maximum of patience, understanding and ingenuity.

The school serves other functions. It must provide recreational activities after hours for children who, because they are unable to communicate with hearing children, are often unaccepted on the streets and in playgrounds. It also maintains a clinic where parents may bring children for testing and diagnosis of hearing deficiencies and the selection of hearing aids.

Ninth-grade pupils in the art and metal jewelry shop at P. S. 47.

The school must teach parents as well as their children. It provides solace for those who question, understandably, their children's ability to learn, to get a job and to support themselves. To this end, it conducts education classes for parents who, says the principal, Harriet F. McLaughlin, often overprotect their handicapped children and prevent them from helping themselves.

The school began in 1908, with forty-seven pupils in a renovated building. It was the result of demands by the city's parents and was run at that time by Miss Margaret A. Regan. Waiting lists for enrollment then, as now, were endless and the school barely met the needs of the students. Miss Regan, in coping with them, established the first training class for teachers of the deaf.

In 1926, a new building was erected. Shortly thereafter, the first group hearing aid was installed in a classroom and hearing aids were introduced to the students. Now, even the youngest child and the totally deaf are required to wear one. With the two-year-olds, installation requires some friendly persuasion.

The insistence on hearing aids is due in great part to the work of Miss McLaughlin. Medical research, she says, has proven that the mere vibration of sound is a primary factor in a child's knowledge of how to speak. A deaf child may acquit himself adequately in a lip-reading test, but with the help of a hearing-aid, his performance is far superior.

Even for Babies

At Miss McLaughlin's suggestion, Bellevue Hospital's free audiology clinic began putting hearing aids on eight-month-old children in 1955. Parents were taught to speak and sing to the child constantly, despite his deafness, to accustom him to the vibrations of sound.

Miss McLaughlin, who has been at P. S. 47 since 1936 and its principal since 1940, is a woman of purpose. She began her work by revising the school's curriculum.

Her premise: A deaf child is a normal child with a hearing handicap. His education, she insists, must include all that other children receive as well as some compensation for his handicap.

Classes were also established at the school for mentally retarded deaf children. There are now five such classes, each with a capacity enrollment of ten students. Similar sessions were introduced for aphasic children, those who can hear, but because of brain injury cannot speak a child is always a child first with a child's needs, and a deaf child second. He may learn as well as the child with normal hearing, given the proper care. "It's not the ears that count," Miss McLaughlin contends, "but what's between them."

Herald Tribune photos by Morris Warman

Students make their own graduation dresses.

The waiting list for both courses is long.

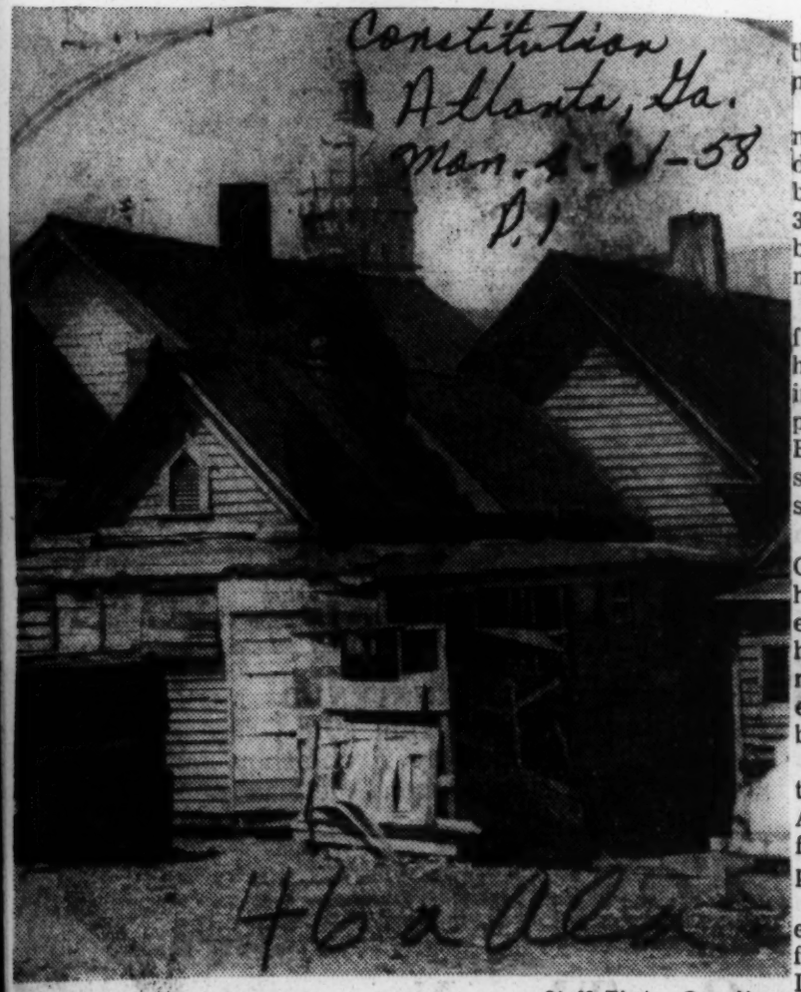
Many of the children who are graduated from P. S. 47 go on to regular high schools as well as to college and post-graduate work.

Vocational Courses

She believes implicitly in integration. In P. S. 47's nursery school there are both deaf and hearing children. The casual observer of such a gathering finds it difficult to distinguish one from another, for the children have learned to respond to the teacher.

For older students, the usual academic fare has been supplemented with courses in printing, home economics, jewelry-making, sewing (boys included—one male graduate is already a dress designer of note) and extensive work in art and science. Graduates of the school have been particularly successful in science laboratories.

To Miss McLaughlin and her 100 specially trained teachers,



Staff Photo—Guy Hayes

CROWDED HOUSING BLOCKS VIEW OF CAPITOL

These Dwellings Are on Rawson Street

Birmingham Clears Slums, Ignoring Foes

By GENE BRITTON

Constitution State News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The secret of Birmingham's success in pushing through a slum clearance program is simple.

Although it sounds harsh and unpopular at first glance, it has worked for the common good of the city's people and they are for it.

Birmingham has simply refused to take opposition to its urban renewal program into account. Objectors have been politely listened to and then firmly pushed out of the way of the city's program.

This attitude has prevailed throughout all Birmingham official-dom from the mayor on down.

Atlanta, which has much in common with the Alabama city in the way of problems if not in accomplishment, can learn from the progress Birmingham has made.

Hovels or Hope

In its two approved urban renewal projects, Birmingham has demolished a total of 696 slum buildings. By the end of the year, 310 more are expected to have been torn out of urban renewal neighborhoods.

Birmingham has relocated 824 families from slums in good, clean houses and apartments, dwellings in which the occupants can take pride. Relocation offices of the Birmingham Housing Authority soon will have placed 594 more slum families in decent quarters.

With its Avondale and Medical Center projects moving Birmingham into a place of national leadership in urban renewal, the city has begun the planning for a tremendous third project which is expected to involve 2,500 acres of blighted land areas.

How has Birmingham escaped the pitfalls that have slowed down Atlanta's urban renewal program, frequently to near the stalling point?

"We've tried to be better leaders for the pros than the leaders for the 'cons' were," said Hugh Denman, urban renewal director for the Birmingham Housing Authority. "We haven't given anybody a rosy picture, but we've tried to treat people right."

Denman and his associates did a real selling job. The city government (which operates under the city commissioner system with three commissioners — one of which is mayor, having full executive and legislative powers) has also used a great deal of diplomacy in putting the program across.

NO PUNCHES PULLED

But neither the Housing Authority nor City Hall has pulled punches. They've conducted the whole program with a "come-hell-or-high-water" attitude.

The problems they licked are essentially the same ones that are threatening to lick Atlanta's program.

"What about the low-cost relocation houses built under Title 221 of the National Housing Act?" they were asked. "The houses are being vigorously opposed by certain neighborhood groups in Atlanta, largely because of fear of established homeowners that they might be getting undesirable neighbors from the slums."

FAIR PRICE

"It's a misconception that all slum dwellers are 'sorry people'," Denman said. "Many of them owned their own homes in the slums. We gave them the fairest price we could for the slum houses and they were able to apply the money toward purchase of better homes."

Charlie Hollaman, FHA director in Birmingham, said he is "having to fight off builders every day," because of the popularity of "221" houses among private developers and prospective buyers. Private enterprise is in the process of constructing or has already built 350 of the homes for Negroes and 150 for whites, he said.

"We're requiring a good house with diversity in architectural planning," he said. "As a result, they're selling like hot cakes."

The FHA director said only slum families with reasonably good credit rating and financial ability to meet the low payments over the 40-year mortgage period were approved as purchasers.

Public housing is available for the rest of the families. A great many of the relocated families in Birmingham have moved into their own new homes, but the city is planning construction of 1,250 additional public housing units for other former slum families. (Birmingham already has 3,700 public housing units compared to almost 7,500 in Atlanta.)

OBVIOUS SOLUTION

"But don't your real estate people object?" Birmingham officials were asked. "Big realty interests in Atlanta are outspokenly opposed to public housing as an answer to the relocation problem."

"Sure, they were opposed here, too," Denman said. "I'm a real estate man myself. But I contacted all the big real estate firms in the city and put the problem to them. They said it would not be economically feasible for them to put up low-rent multiple housing, and were forced to admit that public housing was the obvious solution."

"We simply told the real estate opposition we weren't going to stop our program under any conditions," said Birmingham's Mayor James W. (Jimmy) Morgan. "The opposition — not just the realtors', but everybody's — was nothing in the world but selfishness. We listened to their side and then told them we were going ahead with the program with or without them.

"We had to go along without some of them for awhile," the mayor said. "But now that it's come to pass, everybody — including the real estate people — are pleased."

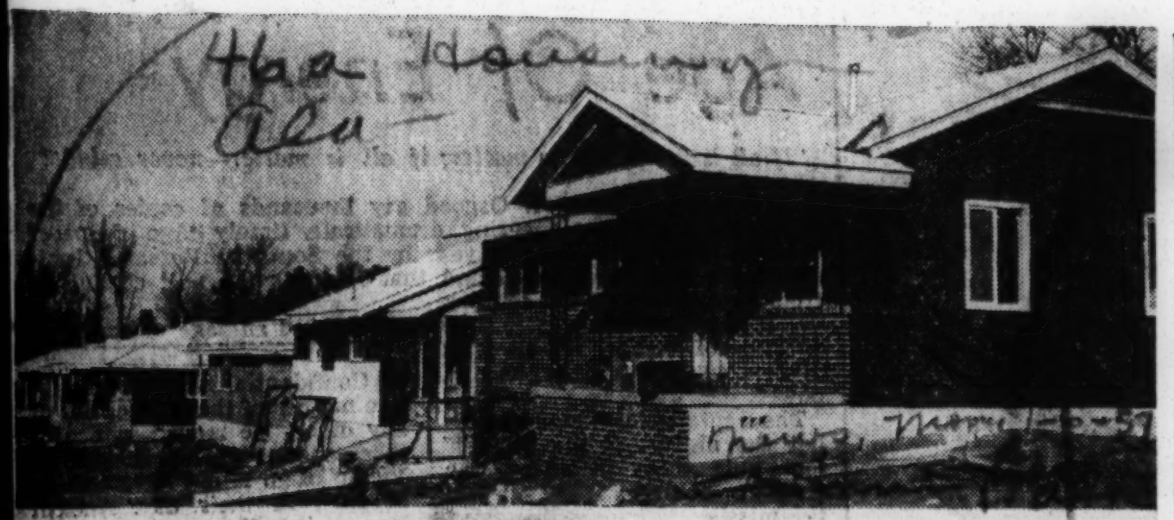
"How did you appease the small businessmen who had stores and shops that depended on the slums for their incomes?" the officials were asked.

"We didn't appease anybody," they replied. "We were forced to tell them what was what. Eventually, everybody was sold on the idea that it was for everybody's good. Now we don't have any opposition to rebuilding a better city."

"We had to tell the businessmen we were going to clear out the slums," Mayor Morgan said. "If a few got hurt, we were sorry. But thousands were going to be helped by it and they knew it."

The mayor looked out the window of his office in City Hall.

"I've never been sorry," he said.



HONEYSUCKLE PARK HOUSES—These houses, nearing completion, are typical of those being built in Honeysuckle Park, Negro residential section.

Negro Project Here Called One Of Finest

BY GEORGE COOK

Honeysuckle Park, a subdivision development in Birmingham for Negroes, is considered to be one of the finest examples of home construction in the country for which mortgages were insured 100 per cent under terms of Section 221 of the Federal Housing Act.

So said C. B. Holliman, Birmingham director for the Federal Housing Administration.

Section 221 of the law authorizes the loans to persons displaced by any governmental action, whether it's city, county, state or federal.

Displacement causes can range from construction of highways to clearing of sites for schools.

In Birmingham's case, for the most part, the loans are made to persons who have been displaced because of slum clearance and urban renewal programs.

Enforcement of Birmingham's new Housing Code also can make persons eligible for this type loan.

Little over two years ago, Birmingham officials were notified that community mortgage insurance for up to 508 units had been approved by the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

The majority of these loans were approved for persons displaced by the Avondale, Kingston and Medical Center slum clearance and redevelopment projects.

Then, Albert M. Cole, HHFA administrator, this week notified Mayor James W. Morgan that the 508 units had been increased to 1720.

Holliman said the increase was made to take care of persons displaced by the Tuxedo Junction project.

At present, Holliman said, the federal agency has in the works approximately 100 applications for the special loans to whites and between 300 and 400 for Negroes.

Under provisions of the law, displaced persons may borrow up to $9000 at 5.25 per cent interest to be repaid over a period of 40 years, with a down payment of $200.

Holliman said Alabama is second only to Georgia in the program.

Another unique feature of the law is that the Federal Government not only insures the loan, it also will loan the necessary money through the Federal National Mortgage Assn.

In pointing to Honeysuckle Park as one of the finest examples of housing under Section 221, Holliman quoted Lee Johnson, executive secretary of the National Housing Conference, who recently looked over Birmingham's slum clearance and urban redevelopment program.

Said Johnson:

"I saw for the first time housing for minorities that would cheer your soul."

Houses in Honeysuckle Park cost their buyers between $9200 and $9500, Holliman said.

Negro Housing Project Opens

Special to The Post-Herald

FLORENCE, March 5—The Handy Homes, Negro housing project which has a building cost of $450,000 and includes 50 duplex style modern apartments, has opened here. The opening was conducted by the Florence Housing Authority.

Karl Tyree, Jr., executive director of the Florence Housing Authority, said that families have begun occupying the units, which range in size from one bedroom to four bedrooms.

Rents are based on family income from a minimum of $17 to $70 per month and will be approximately 20 per cent of the total family income.

Negro Residents Blast Gadsden, Ala. Urban Plan

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (INS) — A group of Negro residents charged in Federal Court Monday that a Gadsden, Ala., urban redevelopment plan is designed to convert a mixed Negro-white neighborhood to an all-white residential area.

The complaint charged the redevelopment plan is a scheme . . . for initiating, enforcing, extending and perpetuating racial segregation in the residential areas of the city of Gadsden."

Purpose of the redevelopment plan, the suit contends, is to move Negro families from the neighborhood now inhabited by both Negro and white people, and then later sell the vacated property to white people, thus creating an all-white residential area.

Gadsden's redevelopment plan involves an area inhabited by 331 Negro and 232 white families. The Federal Court at Birmingham set a hearing on the petition for injunction for April 7.

No white families to be moved

(Special to the AFRO)

GADSDEN, Ala.—This city's plan to displace colored persons from a community, redevelop it and turn it over to white persons, will be tested in Judge H. Hobart Grooms' Federal District Court on April 7.

In an unprecedented action, viewed closely by other cities with redevelopment plans, 50 colored persons of the Birmingham Ave. section here have challenged this town's "master plan," contending it violates the 14th Amendment.

Gadsden's "master plan" calls for the Birmingham section to be turned over to white persons after 120 new buildings have been erected, roads improved, new streets paved, sewage, sapitation and the water supply system improved.

The suit marks the first such action involving this city's redevelopment plans and the first time violation of the 14th Amendment has been charged in such a case. . . . . .

The attorney for the 50 persons contesting the city's plan, stated:

"This is not an isolated incident, but there never before has been a full city plan exactly like the master plan."

He said "50 colored owner-occupant families and about twice that number of tenants in the Birmingham Ave. section would be displaced under the plan."

* * *

THE LAWYER said Gadsden officials want to relocate the colored families in the North Fifth St. area, where relatively no city improvements have been made.

Plaintiffs in the suit were listed as E. F. Barnes, J. C. Carson, J. Jelks and J. Robertson and others contesting the action.

Defendants are the city, the Water Gadsden Housing Authority and Walter B. Mills, the authority's executive secretary.

The petition charges that the proposed relocation is being done solely as a means to "control the future occupancy of the area; to restrict areas for residential purposes in the future solely because of race and color."

The suit asks that a temporary injunction be issued against starting the redevolpment plan until a final ruling is handed down.

All present colored residents of the area will be forced out to make room for modernization and will not be allowed back after the community is revamped, under the city plan.

Residents of the area insist that their rights under the 14th Amendment are being infringed upon by the master plan.

They do not object to redevelopment per se, but they protest being unable to return to the area after blight has been corrected.

GADSDEN OFFICIALS contend that colored persons in the area are causing the squalid conditions. Even though the racial distribution is about 50-50 there, officials say:

"There are not enough colored persons in the community to justify provisions of proper recreational, school and social facilities."

They say the best suited area for the expansion of the colored community is the North Fifth Ave. St., area, bordering a city dump.

A civic center, new utilities, underground storm and drainage systems and clearance and development for a total of 127 new building sites for the Birmingham Ave. section is proposed "for white only."

After the clearance is completed, the housing authority expects to build single family homes to be sold to whites as individuals buyers or unit developers, it was revealed.

Suit By Negroes Opposes Gadsden Housing Authority

(From The Gadsden Call-Post)

GADSDEN, Ala. — The well-drawn, well planned move to oust colored residents of the Southside-Birmingham St. area by the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority was challenged this week in the U. S. District court when suit was filed asking a temporary injunction to restrain the Authority from carrying out the plan.

The suit, representing fifty colored property owners on the southside was filed by Attorney Arthur Burns for Dr. E. F. Barnes, Rev. J. C. Carson, James Jelks and J. Robertson who are representing the property owners.

The case has attracted nationwide attention due to the fact that many communities are using the "Redevelopment Plan" to oust Negro citizens from their homes to create all-Negro communities in an effort to avoid providing equal educational opportunities for colored citizens.

Under the plan proposed by the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority, all Negro residents of the southside area would be given the "opportunity" of moving to the City Garbage Dump area of Shinbone Ridge in North Gadsden where the city is using the Landfill method disposing of its garbage.

The action filed under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution asks Federal Court to issue an injunction stopping Gadsden from carrying out the already contracted plan.

A hearing will be held in Birmingham April 7 at 10 a. m.

This is what the City of Gadsden plans to do according to the complaint:

Purchase the 331 Negro homes in the Birmingham-St. mixed housing area leaving 323 white homes.

Then relocated the displaced Ne-Negro families in public Negro housing or in the sparsely built up Fifth St., N. area.

The city's next step would be selling the lots bought from the Negroes in the Birmingham St. area to whites, leaving Birmingham St. an all-white neighborhood.

The complaint says "the lots will not be available to the plaintiffs (Negroes) or members of their class solely because of race and color".

They say Gadsden's express purpose for redeveloping the Fifth St., N. area is for the purpose of permitting them to control the future racial occupancy of this area through this particular redevelopment plan.

The Colored residents say the plan is "a scheme" for initiating, enforcing, extending and perpetuating racial segregation in residential areas of the City of Gadsden in violation of rights secured by the due process and equal protection clauses of the 4th Amendment to the Constitution."

Gadsden and its Housing Authority signed a contract Aug. 29, 1957 with Federal Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to start implementing the plans.

See Redevelopment Plans as Weapons of Pro-Segregationists

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In U. S. Court Here—

City Of Gadsden Wins Racial Housing Suit

U. S. District Judge H. H. Grooms yesterday ruled in favor of the City of Gadsden in a racial segregation suit brought by a group of Negroes seeking to stop redevelopment of two Gadsden areas.

The suit was against the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority and its director Walter B. Mills Jr. The Negroes who sued claimed they would not be allowed to repurchase land in the Birmingham Street Project area when slum clearance was completed and that they would be shunted off to the North Fifth-st area.

The Negroes didn't challenge the slum clearance in itself.

The court pointed out that Gadsden doesn't have any ordinances or resolutions on racial segregation of housing in the city.

Judge Grooms said in the decision that no evidence was presented showing that sales in the Birmingham street area will be restricted to white people.

He pointed out that if the Negroes' request for prior rights to purchase land in the Birmingham street area is granted "resegregation rather than desegregation will result, since . . . practically the entire area is now occupied by Negroes."

And Judge Grooms wrote that "the law does not compel integration, whatever the guise under which relief is sought. It only prohibits enforced segregation."

He said the court must presume that Gadsden officials will act "in good faith in discharging their duties and in observing the constitutions and laws, state and federal. Bad faith cannot be imputed," he wrote.

Judge Grooms heard the case argued several months ago, and took it under advisement. He signed the decision yesterday.

n Housing Suit—

Birmingham Herald

Gadsden Negroes Seek New Trial

Birmingham Ala.

Aug. 8-16-58

A group of Gadsden Negroes who lost a racial housing suit against the City ofGadsden in Federal Court here last week asked for a new trial yesterday.

The Negroes, residents of the Birmingham-st area of Gadsden, claim Gadsden is using a slum clearance project to enforce housing segregation. They said Gadsden plans to sell cleared land in their old area to whites only, leaving the North Fifth-st area open to Negro development.

U. S. District Judge H. H. Grooms ruled in the case. He said, in his decision, the Negroes didn't present evidence showing that sales in the Birmingham street area would be restricted to whites.

In the request for a new trial, the Negroes attached 25 affidavits from members of their race stating they now own and occupy homes in the Birmingham-st area and they want to buy a lot or home in the area when the re-development is started.

They say they can't secure assurance from the city officials and Greater Gadsden Housing Authority that they will be able to make the purchases without being discriminated against.

They claim, as a basis for a new trial, errors in the other trial and new evidence.

The Negroes list their financial status on each petition, and it runs from $6000 to $250,000. One Negro lists $85,000 and there are many between $20,000 and $40,000.

Judge Grooms pointed out in his decision that the Birmingham-st area is now practically all Negro, so "resegregation rather than desegregation will result" if the Negro request to stop the plan is allowed.

Judge Grooms also pointed out that "the law does not compel integration, whatever the guise under which relief is sought. It only prohibits enforced segregation."

Gadsdendoes not have any housing segregation ordinances or laws.

Negroes Sue Over Housing

Birmingham Post-Herald

Montgomery Adv.

Aug. 8-16-58

BIRMINGHAM (AP)—Fifty Gadsden Negroes Monday charged in an injunction petition that a Greater Gadsden Housing Authority redevelopment project is discriminatory against them.

The Negroes asked a U.S. District Court injunction halting the plan, which they said was designed to "control future racial occupancy" of the affected area. No date was set for a hearing.

The Negroes are protesting Housing Authority plans for the Birmingham street area of Gadsden. They claim that 331 Negro families would be moved out and that 300 white families would not be affected.

The Housing Authority said there are too few Negroes in the Birmingham street area to offer recreational, school and social facilities. Another close-in area on North Fifth street is proposed for expansion of the Negro community.

Racial housing suit is dismissed in Ala.

Afro American p. 17

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A public housing suit charging that racial discrimination would bar colored persons from a proposed new housing project at Eufaula, was dismissed Wednesday by a Federal court judge here who claimed the petition lacked evidence.

Montgomery Adv.

The petition by 10 colored property owners charged that there was a "tacit agreement between all defendants and private enterprise interests that homes in the project would be sold or leased only to white persons."

Aug. 8-16-58

U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson dismissed the petition saying "no evidence had been submitted by the plaintiffs to substantiate the complaint."

THE JURIST added, "the court assumes the defendants, the agents and successors in office will upon completion of the project, recognize the law —the law being to the effect that there can be no governmentally inforced segregation solely because of color."

Under the housing plan, some 72 colored persons will be forced from their homes into another area while the property is demolished. New homes will be built in the area under what the plaintiffs believe will be segregated circumstances.

Plaintiffs in the suit were Stephen Tate, Mrs. Clara Cochran, David Frost Jr., A. Cummings, Mrs. Annie B. Crews, Oscar Bouer, G. M. Griffin. Willie Griffin, Dan Walker and Mrs. Lula Young. They were represented by Fred Gray, attorney.

Named as defendants in the suit were the City of Eufaula, the Eufaula Housing Authority and Harry Wright, executive director of the housing unit.

Alabama Negroes Fight White Housing Proiect

EUFAULA, Ala. (UPI) — A Eufaula Housing Authority official said Monday this city has no power to restrict a planned housing project to white buyers.

Harry Wrighton, executive director, said Eufaula "has absolutely no power to make the project exclusive for white people." Wrighton made the statement in connection with charges by a group of Negroes who own property in the condemned area, that the land would be used for an all-white development.

An attorney representing the group charged such action would be in violation of his clients' constitutional rights. The charge was overruled in a hearing last week by Circuit Judge George C. Wallace.

A trial on the value of the Negroes' property set by the city will be held Thursday. A second case involving assessment of value on property owned by a second Negro group was to be heard Tuesday.

Wrighton also said the authority intends to "upgrade the section" as a residential area under state and federal laws.

Eufaula has no ordinances regulating zoning according to race.

The proposed housing development is a joint city-federal government project.

Gray was over-ruled last week when he asked that the jury be set aside on the grounds that Negroes are systematically excluded from jury service in the county. A Negro on the list of qualified jurors was challenged by him Thursday. The juries trying the cases have all been white.

Wrighton said that the site for the projected development consists of about 85 per cent Negro owned property. He said that it is the intention of the Housing Authority to upgrade the section as a residential area under state and federal laws.

The proposed housing development is a joint city-federal government project.

Gray, Montgomery Negro attorney representing the group, charged that such action would be taken in volation of his clients' constitutional rights. The charge was overruled in a hearing last week by Circuit Court Judge George C. Wallace.

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Eufaula Can't Ban Negroes, Says Official

EUFAULA—This city has no power to restrict a planned housing project to white buyers, according to a Housing Authority official.

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Housing Plea By Negroes Overruled

EUFAULA (AP) — Circuit Judge George Wallace Friday overruled demurrers or legal objections raised by attorneys for 21 Negroes who are fighting condemnation of their property for a housing project.

Fred Gray, a Montgomery Negro attorney, contended that the legal action by the housing authority to acquire the property amounts to a scheme to promote racial segregation.

The Negro attorneys have subpoenaed all white attorneys in Eufaula, including Former Gov. Chauncey Sparks, and members of the Barbour County Jury Commission as witnesses.

Friday's hearing was largely devoted to evidence presented by the Negroes in support of objections they have raised to the condemnation proceedings. The hearing is expected to last into next week.

The Negroes claim the urban renewal development will be restricted to white tenants, thus violating their constitutional rights.

Sometime ago the Barbour County Probate Court authorized the Eufaula Housing Authority to raze the dwellings. This is the condemnation order which the Negroes are protesting.

In Housing Case—

Judge Overrules Negroes' Council

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Eufaula Negroes Apply For Quarters In All-White Proiect

EUFAULA, Ala. (AP) — Four Negro families, who applied to live in an all-white project, will be offered apartments in a similar development for their race.

Harry Wrighton, Eufaula Housing Authority director, said the Negroes filled out applications Thursday for a white development in which there are no vacancies. The Negro project has available units, he said.

The Negroes home were condemned to make way for another lowrent urban renewal development. They were atmong 20 Negroes who recently lost a court contest involving the condemnation.

Circuit Judg eGeorge C. Wallace overruled their contention that the proposed sub - division would be for white use only, thus violating their constitutional rights.

declared at least 72 Negro families will be displaced in the development of the project.

Defendants were listed as the City of Eufaula, the Housing Authority of Eufaula, and Harry Wrighton, executive director of the city housing authority.

Plaintiffs declared the suit is also being brought in behalf of other residents of the area. They claimed the redevelopment plan is being used to move Negroes from the Flake Hill area, which is adjacent to the white high school across town from an all-Negro area.

The Housing Authority, the plaintiffs declared, is including all Negro homes in the area, designating them all as "blighted," but leaving out all white homes in the same area.

An injunction was asked of the court to:

Enjoin the defendants from limiting displaced persons to Chattahoochee Courts only and declare that as displaced persons they have a statuatory right to occupy any public housing in the city including the all-white Western Heights development.

Enjoin the defendants from failure to relocate the 16 families whose income make them ineligible for other public housing;

Enjoin the defendants from making a contract with private developers in which it is agreed that the land or honses built in the area will be sold or rented to white persons only;

to strike the venire which has two Negroes.

The Eufaula Housing Authority asked the court to abolish the Flake Hill area property so it could abolish the sub-standard area bordering white property.

Some of the property, after delapidated houses are removed, will be developed by private interests. Other acreage will be preserved for purchase by the school board and for a public park.

Wallace overruled a motion to stop condemantion after Fred Gray, Negro attorney for 21 Negroes, contended that action to condemn the houses occupied by Negroes and partially owned by Negroes was a move to perpetuate segregation.

Archie Grubbs, attorney for the housing authority, argued that condemnation proceedings are necessary for progress and that none of the 21 Negroes who brought the suit to block it are property owners in the Flake Hill area.

Eufaula Slum Clearance Plan Is Challenged

EUFAULA, Ala.— The constitutionality of phases of a plan requiring segregation in slum clearance and redevelopment in Eufaula, has been challenged by ten Negro residents of the so-called slum area.

The suit challenges the right of Eufaula to use the Public Housing Act to demolish homes in the Negro area known as Flake Hill only to redevelop it for exclusive use of white persons.

The complaint, filed in U. S. District Court, charged the plan is being used as "a scheme to effectuate racial segregation."

The petition was filed in Montgomery by Attorney Fred Gray. It

Negroes Fail To Preserve Slum Section

EUFAULA (AP) — Condemnation of the Flake Hill slum area was ordered Friday by Circuit Judge George Wallace as Negro attorneys moved to void a jury venire drawn for civil trial, to set the prices on the partly Negro-owned property.

The circuit judge is expected to rule Wednesday on the move

Eufaula Negroes Lose Housing Project Suit

MONTGOMERY, Aug. [illegible] —A U. S. district court judge today tossed out a complaint filed by Eufaula Negroes who charged last June that a new housing project being built there would be for white people only.

District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr.'s five-page opinion said there were no facts "averred or inferred" to justify what the Negroes claimed was a "tacit understanding" between the Eufaula Housing Authority and private interests to sell or lease the new homes in the Flake Hill area only to whites.

The 10 Negroes filing the suit alleged that it was the City of Eufaula's policy to segregate Negro and white persons in public programs and activities and that this would be the case after construction of the housing area.

The housing plan calls for removal of some 72 Negroes to another area, while their property will be torn down and built up with homes, a park and recreational area and possibly school facilities. It also provides that land would be restricted on the basis of race.

Named as defendants in the complaint were the City of Eufaula, the Housing Authority of Eufaula and Harry Wrighton, director of the Housing Authority.

All court costs were assessed against the plaintiffs—Stephen Tate, Clara Cochren, David Frost Jr., Adolphus Cummings, Annie Bell Crows, Oscar Bouer, Gennie M. Griffin, Willie Griffin, Dan Walker and Lula Young.

Eufaula Negroes File Suit Against Slum Clearance

By JO ANN FLIRT

Ten Negro residents of a section of Eufaula designated as a slum area and scheduled for redevelopment under the Public Housing Act have challenged the constitutionality of phases of the plan requiring segregation.

According to the complaint filed in U.S. District Court here Monday, the plan to demolish homes in the Negro residential area of Eufaula known as Flake Hill and redevelop it for use by white persons only is being used as "a scheme to effectuate racial segregation."

At least 72 Negro families will be displaced in the development of the project, the suit states. It was filed by Montgomery Attorney Fred Gray.

Named as defendants in the suit, brought by the 10 persons in behalf of themselves and other residents of the area, are the City of Eufaula, the Housing Authority of Eufaula and Harry Wrighton, executive director of the city housing authority.

The Negroes claim that the redevelopment plan is being used to move Negroes from the Flake Hill area, which is adjacent to the white high school across town from an all-Negro area.

They say that the Housing Authority is including in the area designated as "blighted" only the residences of Negroes and is leaving out the homes of white families in that same area.

The suit asks for an injunction covering a number of points and for the court to:

Enjoin the defendants from limiting displaced persons to Chattahoochee Courts only and declare that as displaced persons they have a statutory right to occupy any public housing in the city including the all-white Western Heights development.

Enjoin the defendants from failure to relocate the 16 families whose income make them ineligible for other public housing;

Enjoin the defendants from making a contract with private developers in which it is agreed that the land or houses built in that area will be sold or rented to white persons only;

Enjoin the defendants from refusing to allow the Negroes the use of the public park or the public school facilities to be built on the land cleared in the redevelopment plan.

Plaintiffs in the suit are Stephen Tate, Clara Cochran, David Frost Jr., Adolphus Cummings, Annie Bell Crews, Oscar Bouer, Gennie M. Griffin, Willie Griffin, Dan Walker and Lula Young.

The Housing Authority, the plaintiffs declared, is including all Negro homes in the area, designating them all as "blighted," but leaving out all white homes in the same area.

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Eufaula Negroes To Get Hearing In Fight To Save Their Homes

EUFAULA, Oct. 16 (AP)—A group of Eufaula Negroes who are trying to keep their property from being condemned to make way for a new housing development will get a hearing in state court here tomorrow.

The Negroes are challenging the right of the Eufaula Housing Authority to tear down a Negro residential neighborhood to make the area available for an urban renewal program.

Contending the proposed new development will be restricted to white residents, the Negroes say it would violate their rights under the U. S. Constitution to take their property from them.

The Negroes say the contested property is to be used for a white housing project, an addition to a white high school, and perhaps also a park for white residents.

The Housing Authority already started condemnation proceedings in Barbour County Probate Court and has won the right there to raze the Negro dwellings.

Tomorrow's hearing before Judge George Wallace in Circuit Court is an appeal from the Probate Court condemnation order.

A similar suit was thrown out in Federal Court recently by U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., at Montgomery. Johnson, refusing to grant an injunction to block the Eufaula urba renewal program, said his court couldn't assume the project would be restricted to white users before any such action was taken by the Housing Authority.

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By JO ANN FLIRT

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At least 72 Negro families will be displaced in the development of the project, the suit states. It was filed by Montgomery Attorney Fred Gray.

Court Voids Suit Citing Racial Bar

U.S. Judge Rules Evidence Lacking In Eufaula Action

By DICK LOOSER

A complaint charging that Negroes would be barred from a new public housing project at Eufaula was thrown out of court here Wednesday by U. S. District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr.

Judge Johnson, in a five-page opinion, ruled that no evidence had been submitted by the 10 Eufaula Negroes to back up their complaint of a "tacit agreement between all defendants and the private enterprise interests that the homes would be sold or leased only to white persons.

The suit was filed here June 9 by the 10 plaintiffs who are property owners in the area to be developed by the Eufaula Housing Authority and who will be forced to vacate their homes after they have been purchased or legally condemned.

Represented by Montgomery attorney Fred Gray, the Negroes filed the suit naming the City of Eufaula, the Eufaula Housing Authority and Harry Wright, executive director of the housing authority as defendants.

POLICY CUSTOM

The plaintiffs contended that it is the "policy, custom and usage to segregate Negro and white in public programs and that it is their plan to do so after the project is developed."

Under the housing plan, some 72 Negroes will be removed to another area while the property is demolished on the theory that it is a blighted area. On the premises of the old buildings will be built new homes, with space made available to the city for a park and recreational area, and for school facilities if deemed necessary.

In dismissing the suit, the federal judge said:

"The court assumes the defendants, their agents and successors in office will upon completion of the project, recognize the law . . . the law being to the effect there can be no governmentally enforced segregation solely because of color."

RELATIONS, RIGHTS

In filing the complaint, the plaintiffs had asked the judge to "decree and adjudge" the legal relation and rights of the parties and to enjoin the defendants from: continuing racial segregation in public housing projects; failing to provide other housing for them; failing to incorporate with private redevelopers a requirement to lease or sell without discrimination because of color; and refusing plaintiffs and members of their class the right to use all facilities in the developed area.

Under the present plans of the housing authority, most of the homes in the Flake Hill area will ultimately be sold to private parties for residential redeveloping and to the city for recreational area development.

The defendants, in their answer to the charge, contended that no present controversy existed and that the plaintiffs had failed to state a claim.

In rendering the opinion, Judge Johnson said:

"In this complaint, before there is a genuine and presently existing justifiable controversy . . . the court must assume the redeveloping plan will be executed; that the school board will acquire land and construct a school and that qualified Negroes will seek admission and be denied solely because they are Negroes; and that they will apply for housing and if eligible, be discriminated against. . . ."

"A study reveals the complaint to be insufficient insofar as stating a cause of action and alleging a presently existing genuine justifiable controversy," he concluded.

The project will be financed through the Federal Urban Renewal Administration.

All court costs were assessed against the plaintiffs, Stephen Tate, Clara Cochran, David Frost Jr., Adolphus Cummings, Annie Bell Crews, Oscar Bouer, Gennie M. Griffin, Willie Griffin Dan Walker, and Lula Young.

Housing Project Work Begins

Construction of the first of three new housing projects got under way this week when the Birmingham Housing Authority broke ground on its Morton Simpson Village yesterday.

The 500-unit village for Negroes is expected to cost $6,300,000 and will be located at 46th-st and Ninth-av, n.

According to Harold Harper, director of the Housing Authority, acquisition of the necessary land has been going on for about one year.

Construction is expected to be finished by the Summer of 1959.

The new project, the seventh in Birmingham, will have a 4700 square foot recreation building and a playground adjacent to the grounds of Kingston School.

The project was named after the late Morton Simpson, who was vice chairman of the Housing Authority.

Construction of the village will bring to four the number of Negro projects in the city in addition to three white projects.

Ground is expected to be broken in the Avondale slum clearance area for the Simpson annex in September.

Mr. Harper said the Housing Authority also plans to begin construction of its Tuxedo Courts project in Ensley in 1959.

Participating in yesterday's ground breaking ceremonies were Housing Authority Chairman J. Orlando Ogle, Vice Chairman Russell B. Harris and Commissioners H. L. Hahn and Irving M. Silverfield; Don B Oesterling, authority technical advisor; Max Deitenbeck, comptroller and Harper.

Montgomery Firm To Build Big Negro Housing Project

A Montgomery firm will start construction next week in Mobile of one of the largest non-government Negro housing developments in the Southeast.

Folmar and Flinn Contractors will construct between 900 and 1,000 homes on approximately 240 acres of land on Mobile's western outskirts.

Officials of the firm purchased the land for subdivision purposes through Urban Land Corp., also of this city, for $500,000.

James Folmar, one of the contractors, said the subdivision will include a 30-acre school site, a 10-acre dedicated park and a 20-acre shopping center.

Three-bedroom houses will be built, he said, with FHA financing for the buyers. City water and sewerage systems will be available.

Folmar said that Negroes of Mobile were in need of such a development, as many of them are being displaced by proposed federal highways and slum clearance programs.

Mobile's City Planning Commission has approved plans for the subdivision site, which is located just within the city limits.

The development site was purchased from Marvin Mostellar, of Mobile.

Housing Complaint Rejected By Court

10 Negroes Lose Plea On Eufaula Project

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 6.—(UPI)—A United States District Court judge Wednesday tossed out a complaint filed by Eufaula, Ala., Negroes who charged last June that a new housing project being built there would be for white people only.

Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr.'s five-page opinion stated there were no facts "averred or inferred" to justify what the Negroes claimed was a "tacit understanding" between the Eufaula Housing Authority and private interests to sell or lease the new homes in the Flake Hill area only to whites.

The 10 Negroes filing the suit alleged it was the city of Eufaula's policy to segregate Negro and white in public programs and activities and that this would be the case after construction of the housing area.

The housing plan calls for removal of some 72 Negroes to another area, while their property will be torn down and built up with homes, a park and recreational and possibly school facilities. It also provides that land would be restricted on the basis of race.

Work begins Monday to clear slums

Shovels will begin turning the soil to prepare for the redevelopment of the Avondale slum clearance area Monday at 9 a.m.

Mayor James W. Morgan and Commissioner J. T. Waggoner and Eugene Connor will be on hand to turn the first spade of ground for the site preparation work.

The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District yesterday awarded Mac's Contracting Co. a $437,538 contract for grading work, constructing streets and sidewalks, and installing sewer and water lines in the area.

Work on the project will result in closing a portion of heavily-traveled Georgia-rd.

Hugh Denman, urban renewal director for the authority, said Georgia-rd will probably be closed three or four months, but said starting time on the project had not yet been set.

The street will be closed from 41st-st to the railroad tracks just beyond 46th-st.

WHEN REOPENED, the street will be a straighter, 60-foot thoroughfare.

Denman said completion of the urban renewal will probably take two years. The site will ultimately include a Negro high and elementary school, a housing project, playground, commercial and industrial sites, and property for individual homes.

Ala. racial ouster ends in U.S. court

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — In a suit filed in U.S. District Court last week, 10 colored residents of Eufaula's Flake Hill section have attacked circumstances connected with the redevelopment plans for the area.

The plaintiffs, through their attorney, Fred Gray of Montgomery, have attacked the plan to displace at least 73 colored families as "a scheme to effectuate racial segregation," noting that only colored homes in the area are being designated as "blighted."

PLAINTIFFS are Stephens Tate, David Frost Jr., Adolphus Cummings, Oscar Bourer, Willie Griffin, Dan Walker, Mesdames Clara Cochran, Annie Bell, Crews, Gennie M. Griffin and Lula Young.

Defendants in the case are the City of Eufaula, the Housing Authority of Eufaula and Harry Wrighton, executive director of the city housing authority.

THE PLAINTIFFS asked the court to enjoin the defendants from failing to relocate the 1 families whose income make them ineligible for other public housing; from making contracts to sell land or buildings in the area to only whites;

And also that colored residents be allowed to use the public parks or public schools to be built on the land cleared and that colored persons have a statutory right to occupy any public housing in the city, including all-white Western Heights.

Government Owes $6765.93 For Work At Housing Project

The city commission approved a plan for street lighting at the new Negro housing project at the Tuesday meeting.

A statement prepared by the city clerk was presented the commission, showing the costs of curb and guttering, paving and "lowering the street" at the Knoxville program.

The government will pay $6765.-93 and property owners $1786.83 for work on Carver, Sumner, and Scott, the statement showed.

Curbing and guttering will cost a total of $3069.10; paving $3573.65; and lowering Scott Street $1910.

The government will pay everything except half of the paving costs, which will be shared by private property owners in the area.

As the property owners have one side of the street and the government the other, the costs for the paving will be divided equally, or $1786.83 each.

Most of the work was done by Caldwell Construction Company, the commisisoners reported.

The city officials approved the installation of seven street lights in the Scott-Project-Carver-Sumner section.

There already is one light in the area.

Putting up the seven new 2500 lumen lamps will cost $12.04 a year, or $10.42 monthly, the commissioners said.

Commissioner John North reminded Mayor James L. Hardwick that he had agreed to have the streets kept reasonably clear of beer cans and paper cups if the street department would clean them thoroughly.

North said his crews have cleaned the curbs and gutters several times since then but that they do not stay clean.

Hardwick has announced that litterbugs if caught will be prosecuted to the limit of the law.

Alabama Court Throws Out Housing Suit of 10 Negroes

Montgomery, Ala. (ANP) — A complaint charging that Negroes would be barred from a new public housing project at Eufaula was thrown out of court last week by a U. S. district judge.

Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., in a five page opinion, ruled that no exidnece had been submitted by the 10 Negroes to back up their complaint of a "tacit agreement" between all defendants and the private enterprise interests that the homes would be sold or leased only to white persons.

The Negroes filed suit June 9. They are property owners in an area to be developed by the Eufaula housing authority, and subsequently will be forced to vacate their homes after they have been purchased or legally condemned.

The plaintiffs contended that it is the "policy, custom and usage to segregate Negro and white in public programs and it is their plan to do so after the project is developed. Under the housing plan, 72 Negroes will be removed to another area while the property is demolished on the theory that it is a blighted area.

In dismissing the suit the federal judge said: "The court assumes the defendants, their agents and successors in office will upon completion of the project, recognize the law, the law being to the effect there can be no governmentally enforced segregation solely because of color."

Zoning Unit OKs Rental Of 8 Homes To Negroes

Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of a request to allow eight homes to be rented to Negroes in the 12th-av and 35th-st, n. area.

The petition was from Frank C. Bean, the property owner, and it was protested by other residents of the area when actions Zoning Board.

There are Negro homes to the north and west and white homes to the south and east, the zoning board was told.

The protests came from white property owners, who argued that the value of the property adjoining the Negro homes would be lowered.

"Progressive selling" of white homes to Negroes would result, the property owners told the board.

Board Chairman Sidney Smyer reminded the protestors that the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that no zoning board can deny use of property because of race.

He told the residents that protests to the board must come within its powers and he said the board's legal grounds are based on the power to deny petitions because of "health or life" reasons.

The board also said that the homes could not be sold to Negroes until a road providing entrance and exit is built.

The eight homes were moved to the property from a section taken over to extend Municipal Airport runways.

In other action the board:

Gave permission for a 20-acre commercial center to be built by Drexel Hills Land Co. on property it is developing in Bluff Park.

Turned down a request for permission to build a trailer park in the Patton's Chapel area. Also turned down was a request for permission to build a cement mix plant near Patton's Chapel.

Whites Oppose Negro Project

MOBILE, (ANP) — A delegation of white residents Tuesday protested the proposed construction of a large apartment project for Negroes in north Mobile.

The delegation appeared before the Mobile Board of Zoning Adjustment to oppose an application of the Gulf Coast Realty Co., Mobile, for permission to construct the housing.

The project consists of about 15 masonry-type apartment buildings and 122 separate dwelling units.

The board voted to postpone action on the application until Nov. 4. The delegation opposing plans for the project was composed of members of the Toulminville Property Owners Assn.

White and Negro residential sections adjoin in Toulminville.

Eufaula Can't Ban Negroes, Says Official

EUFAULA — This city has no power to restrict a planned housing project to white buyers, according to a Housing Authority official.

Harry Wrighton, executive director, said Monday that Eufaula "has absolutely no power to make the project exclusive for white people." Wrighton made the statment in connection with charges made by a group of Negroes last week. The own property in the condemned area that the land would be used for an all-white development.

Fred Gray, Montgomery Negro attorney representing the group, charged that such action would be taken in volation of his clients' constitutional rights. The charge was overruled in a hearing last week by Circuit Court Judge George C. Wallace.

A trail on the value of the Negroes' property set by the city will be held Thursday. A second case involving assessment of value on property owned by a second Negro group will be heard Tuesday.

Gray was over-ruled last week when he asked that the jury be set aside on the grounds that Negroes are systematically excluded from jury service in the county. A Negro on the list of qualified jurors was challenged by him Thursday. The juries trying the cases have all been white.

Wrighton said that the site for the projected development consists of about 85 per cent Negro-owned property. He said that it is the intention of the Housing Authority to upgrade the section as a residential area under state and federal laws.

Eufaula has no ordinances regulating zoning according to race.

The proposed housing development is a joint city-federal government project.

Housing Suits Spark Arrests of Protestors

Arrest 'Mean and Independent' Negroes in Ala.

EUFALA, Ala.—Negroes involved in civil rights actions here, who can't be fired because they don't work for local whites, are being arrested by law officers who tell them the charge is "being mean and independent."

• Down here in Eufala, Ala., where two U. S. Court-headed battles and an effort to register to vote began when whites evolved a scheme to use urban renewal razing to get rid of the homes of Negroes living near a white school, they've come up with this new wrinkle.

Of course officially, the arrested, rights-demanding Negroes are being assessed fines for "raising a disturbance."

THE NEGROES, members of the Abert St. Club, which is fighting the two court suits and which has contacted the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, sitting at Montgomery, Ala., this week, about the vote denials, say that it all began when whites pondering the 1954 Supreme Court Segregation Decision decided to raze the homes of Negroes on a street near the white school and adjacent to an area of white homes.

The Negroes retained Atty. Fred Gray and protested first razing scheme, then the amounts offered by the renewal board for their properties in the courts. They appealed the Probate Court decision and were not satisfied at an average three per cent additional award by the Barbour County Circuit Court.

Next, the Rev. Lee Holmes led five persons to the housing authority office to file applications for apartments in the federally financed, now all-white Western Heights housing project.

The Chattahoochee Courts, Negro public housing project, was refused by the applicants on grounds that the river can flood it. Atty. Fred D. Gray and the Abert St. Club filed suit on behalf of the applicants.

SUDDENLY, all but two of the applicants for the white housing project found themselves fired. The town newspaper noted that one of those who filed and was not fired, was a woman who worked for Afro-American Life Insuranec Co., a Negro firm, and that the other was employed by an out-of-town contractor.

Last week, Alfred Henry, who worked for the out-of-town contractor, was arrested and fined $10 for "raising a disturbance" and was pressured to go back to the white housing project and withdraw his application. He did not.

Also arrested, was one of the persons protesting the amount offered if his home was razed, Joseph Hunter, who was fined $10 after arresting officers told him he was being taken into custody for "being mean and independent."

SO ALARMING is the suit over the federally financed project, that Senator John Sparkman of Alabama last week urged Congress and the Administration not to upset the fine work that has been done on housing for Negroes in the South by insisting on integration.

Meanwhile the economic reprisal squeeze is stretching the ingenuity of Eufala Negroes. Most of those working for local whites have been fired.

Those working for Negro concerns, for themselves, or out-of community institutions must help care for those out of work.

Each time a court case is lost and appealed higher, the court costs of the lower court case must be paid by the Negroes. It will take at least $6,000 to fight the courts cases to the U. S. Supreme Court alone. Atty. Fred Gray and the Rev. Lee Holmes and the Abert St. Club need money to help carry on their fight.

Property Owners Challenge System Of Selecting Jurors

EUFAULA, Ala. (SNS)—Attorneys for 20 Negro property owners whose property here has been condemned to make way for an urban renewal project, Wednesday challenged the entire Barbour County jury box in Barbour County Court.

The motion challenging the county's juror selection system came in steps preliminary to trials during which prices will be fixed by jury on condemned property.

Fred Gray, Negro attorney for the property owners who are contesting the prices offered them for the condemned property, contended that the rights of the Negroes were being denied.

Gray noted the rights are being denied through systematic exclusion of Negroes from the juries which will try the condemnation suits and through denying the property owners the right to repurchase the property or occupy the housing, school and park areas when the slum area is cleared.

Gray first challenged the condemnation proceeding against the property when Circuit Judge George Wallace granted the condemnation after Eufaula Housing Authority attorneys claimed that it is a blight area and is eligible for condemnation under the federal urban renewal program.

It was then that Gray moved to strike the venire from which a jury would be drawn for the trial on the grounds that Negroes had only a token representation on the jury because "they are systematically excluded from the venire."

Gray further charged that the proposed new construction of the housing project and park area was merely a move to preserve segregation. The Negro land owners also charge that the prices they have been offered for their properties are not sufficient to re-locate them in new homes.

The question of price to be paid for the land was scheduled to be brought before the jury Thursday, however, there is still no report on the outcome of the pleadings.

Before the cases are brought before the jury, Judge Wallace will have to rule on the motion to set aside the entire jury box.

HOUSING AUTHORITY ACTIONS

Eufaula Jury Hikes Price On Negro's Land

EUFAULA (AP)—A 12-man white jury Thursday awarded a Negro $140 more than the original price for his condemned property.

Twenty-one Negroes, in a state court hearing before Circuit Judge George Wallace, are protesting that Probate Court prices for their condemned lands are too low.

The Eufaula Housing Authority won the condemnation order in Probate Court so that the land may be used for a new urban renewal housing project.

Montgomery Negro Attorney Fred Gray, representing the Negroes, was overruled in an earlier protest challenging the authority's right to take the land. He contended the property would be used for an all-white development, thus violating his clients' constitutional rights.

A second motion to have the all-white panel set aside, on grounds of prejudice, was denied by Wallace Thursday. The jurors must determine whether the challenged prices for the condemned property are fair.

However, when the first decision was handed down Thursday, Stephen Pate, Eufaula Negro, was awarded $390 for his tract of land. The Probate Court price had been $250.

The hearing is expected to last until next week. A decision must be rendered on each tract.

Housing Developers With FHA Loans Cannot Refuse To Sell To Negroes

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Builders and developers who avail themselves of FHA loan insurance and VA loan guarantees in home construction cannot refuse to sell such homes to Negroes.

That was the gist of a landmark decision by Superior Judge James H. Oakley in a case in which Oliver Ming, a World War II veteran, sued Sacramento builders, subdividers and realtors for what the judge described as consistent refusals to sell him a home on FHA and VA terms.

Ming was represented by Loren Miller of Los Angeles and Nathaniel Colley of Sacramento, co-chairmen of the NAACP's West Coast Legal Committee.

"Congress," said Judge Oakley in a lengthy 16 page opinion, "must have intended the supplying of housing for all citizens, not just Caucasians and on an equal, not segregated basis. If the courts were to hold otherwise and accord to builders and realtors the unfettered freedom" to refuse to sell FHA and VA housing to Negroes "the consitutional guarantees of equal protection and non-discrimination would be accorded only secondary importance."

Government Advantages

In a review of FHA and VA activities in the field of housing Judge Oakley pointed out that many advantages accrue to builders and developers through use of government insurance and stressed the fact that "government mortgage insurance....has become far beyond previous experience all to the benefit not only of the general public but to the substantial advantage of all associated with it, including builders, subdividers and realtors."

It is because builders, subdividers and realtors enjoy these advantages through FHA loan insurance and VA loan guarantees that the judge said their claimed "right of freedom of contract to sell to whomever they choose" is curtailed and that "they are as much bound as the administrative agencies of government" to refrain from all racial discrimination.

First of Kind

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The judge found that defendants discriminated against Ming and other Negroes "by avoiding talking to Negro inquirers; if that failed, by seeking to disqualify the inquirer on financial grounds, if that also failed by referring the inquirer to the main office; or if no other excuse was handy by explaining that the owner had forbidden sales agencies to sell to Negroes. A variety of other means was resorted to in individual instances, where it became necessary, to wear down Negro applicants."

Judge Oakley brushed aside the claim of defendants that Congressional failure to include non-discriminatory provisions permitted current practices with the tart observation "that it means nothing that there is no express inhibition against racial discrimination in the law as written" because Congress "cannot enact a law which tolerates or sanctions such discrimination."

Pointing out that government could not discriminate, the judge held that participants in FHA and VA programs "are bound to adhere to the restrictions and limitations of the government in view of their voluntary acceptance of the advantages they have been provided, such advantages being numerous in detail."

Judge Oakley was appointed to the superior court by Chief Justice Earl Warren when he was governor of the state and had served as Warren's secretary.

Says U. S. Financed Projects Open To All

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Builders and developers who avail themselves of FHA loan insurance and VA loan guarantees in home construction cannot refuse to sell such homes to Negroes.

That was the gist of a landmark decision by Superior Judge James H. Oakley in a case in which Oliver Ming, a World War II veteran, sued Sacramento Builders, sub-dividers and realtors for what the judge described as consistent refusals to sell him a home on FHA and VA terms.

Ming was represented by Loren Miller of Los Angeles and Nathaniel Colley of Sacramento, co-chairmen of the NAACP's West Coast legal committee.

"Congress," said Judge Oakley in a lengthy 16 page opinion, "must have intended the supplying of housing for all citizens, not just Caucasians and on an equal, not segregated basis.

"If the courts were to hold otherwise and accord to builders and realtors the unfettered freedom" to refuse to sell FHA and VA housing to Negroes, "the constitutional guarantees of equal protection and non-discrimination would be accordance."

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46a 1958

D.C.

By Arthur Ellis, Staff Photographer

Washington Post

Six children, stranded in Washington yesterday after losing a portion of their bus tickets for Chatham, Va., were on their way there last night. At left is Marjorie Baker of the Travelers Aid Society, who obtained food and tickets for them. The children—Diana, 2; Priscilla, 4; Paul, 5; George, 10; Shirley, 8, and William Carter, 11—were traveling with their aunt, Alice Lanier, who stands at right, to the funeral of the Carter children's mother.

6 Negro Children Stranded En Route To Mother's Funeral Are Aided Here

Washington Post

Six Atlantic City children en route to their mother's funeral in Chatham, Va., were stranded here yesterday when they lost their bus tickets and money.

A friendly ex-serviceman spotted them and their teen-age aunt wandering dazedly in the Trailways Depot soon after they got off from Atlantic City Thursday night. He took them home, fed them, put them up overnight and directed them to the Travelers Aid Society. Then the children were back on board a bus to Chatham and their father.

The ex-GI is Jasper Davis, 30, of 3553 11th st. nw., a veteran of 10 years' Air Force duty who saw the children as he got off a bus from New York.

"They were a confused bunch of kids," he said. "They didn't know what was going on." Davis took them to the apartment he shares with his sister, Bessie, 37, and they managed to find sleeping space for the six young Carters—William, 11; George, 10; Shirley, 8; Paul 5; Priscilla, 4 and Diana, 2.

"We put the four smallest in one bed," said Davis, "all in different directions. We managed."

"I don't know what we would have done without him," said Alice Lanier, 14-year-old aunt of the children who was traveling with them to Chatham. "I didn't have any money, any tickets, any friends or anything. And this man came up and helped us."

Travelers Aid purchased new bus tickets for the seven youngsters and they resumed their trip yesterday afternoon.

The children's mother, Geneva Carter, 28, died of asthma Wednesday morning in Atlantic City. She is to be buried Sunday in Chatham.

Should speed processing—

New FHA plan to aid small towns in state

A new Federal Housing Administration program just introduced in Alabama should help to ease the strain on would-be home buyers who are sweating out the agency's endorsement of their loan.

Called the "Certified Agency Program," the new FHA operation is specifically aimed at towns with populations of less than 15,000. But, according to C. B. Holliman, state FHA director, it will be a boon to metropolitan people because it will lighten the agency's processing load.

The reasoning is that, under the new plan, representatives of lending institutions may do much of the preliminary work previously done by the FHA for small-town applications. Thus, the agency can concentrate its application checking on applications coming in from city folk.

Holliman said the new plan will make it possible to reduce the time of processing applications from a matter of weeks to a matter of days.

SOME 60 representatives from lending institutions all over the state were on hand this week at City Hall to hear the new plan explained.

Holliman said his organization is now swamped with applications. "We're working at least an hour a day overtime and most of Saturdays. We processed 300 applications last week — normally a month's work."

He said the office here had 1272 applications on hand at the beginning of last week and added 278 during the week.

The new program will qualify lending institutions as "authorized agents" with the power to accept applications, arrange for appraisers, make credit analyses and to issue commitments for loans in accordance with limitations imposed by the National Housing Act.

IN THE CASE of proposed construction, the agent arranges for periodic inspections and, upon completion, carries out closing functions and sends the documents on to FHA.

In answer to a question from one of the lending institution representatives, Holliman said that he thought it entirely possible that the procedure will be expanded to use in larger cities.

Alabama is one of the first states in the nation to get the plan. Previously it has been in operation in control areas as an experiment.

"It's a real compliment that we've been selected. I think it points out that business is good here and prospects are good," Holliman said.

THE FIRST APPLICATION of the new program was submitted during the meeting by H. A. Drake Jr., assistant treasurer of a local insurance company.

Malcolm McFarlane, special FHA representative from Washington, told the group here that "entire transactions will now be completed at the home town level. Delays will be minimized and local conditions will be better understood."

Further information will be given April 18 when Norman P. Mason, commissioner of the FHA is scheduled to visit Birmingham to address mortgage specialists.

FHA To Support N.Y. Housing Law

NEW YORK — Dr. Alfred J. Marrow, chairman of the City of New York Commission on Intergroup Relations, announced that the Federal Housing Administration will provide every possible help in achieving the objectives of the city under the jurisdiction of law.

There are some 75,000 apartments in FHA-insured houses in the city under the jurisdiction of the new anti-discrimination law which is administered by the commission.

The announcement followed a conference in Washington with Norman Mason, FHA commissioner, who indicated that FHA already has taken first steps by revising the riders attached to the mortgage insurance application form in New York City to inform applicants of their responsibility to conduct their operation in conformity with the Fair Housing Practices law (Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs law of 1957).

In addition, an FHA intergroup relations advisor to be appointed to the New York City zone will provide services to builders, to lenders and mortgage holders in the application of non-discrimination policies in the private housing market. He will provide liaison with COIR.

Other steps to be taken will be the notification of FHA by COIR of verified complaints, hearings and findings involving FHA-insured properties and the notification of all owners of FHA-aided multiple dwelling properties of the requirements of the City's Fair Housing Practices law.

Dr. Marrow said further steps will be developed through continued negotiations between FHA and COIR officials.

"This conference," the chairman added, "marks a significant pattern of governmental collaboration in protecting the rights of all people to seek shelter without fear of discrimination. It provides us with valuable support in extending services and programs to realize as fully as possible the goals of the Fair Housing Practices law."

Attending the Washington meeting, in addition to Mason and Dr. Marrow, were Dr. Frank S. Horne, executive director of COIR; Dr. George Snowden, assistant to the FHA commissioner and Sidney J Frigand, public information director of COIR.

House Votes FHA Back In Business

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House handed the administration a victory Monday in shouting its approval of a bill to permit the Federal Housing Administration—FHA — to resume underwriting mortgages on home purchases.

The bill, previously passed by the Senate, now goes to President Eisenhower who was expected to sign it into law quickly. The administration is anxious to get the program going again because housing is one of the few cheerful sectors in the economy.

The measure, passed by overwhelming voice vote with no audible dissents, would raise the ceiling on the amount of home mortgages the FHA can insure from $27,500,000,000 to $31,500,000,000.

The agency ordered its 75 field offices last Friday to stop making commitments to insure home mortgages after exhausting its present authority.

FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason said there had been a sharp spurt in FHA mortgages as a result of liberalized terms recently approved by Congress. The stop order, he said, was necessary to stay within the agency's legal dollar limit.

There never had been any question but what Congress would increase the ceiling. But the final outcome for a victory for the administration.

Study Racial Problems In U. S. Housing

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Commission on Civil Rights staff has discussed problems of discrimination in housing with eight zone intergroup relations advisors of the Federal Housing Administration.

The FHA advisors on racial matters, in Washington for a week-long consultation, were accompanied by Dr. George W. Snowden, special assistant to FHA commissioner Norman P. Mason. The roundtable discussion was held in the offices of the Civil Rights Commission last Thursday.

Staff director Gordon [illegible] Tiffany and other members of the Civil Rights staff participated.

The conference was arranged by the Civil Rights Commission staff as a part of its program of collecting information about legal developments and appraising Federal laws and policies with respect to equal protection of the laws. Other discussions with housing officials are planned for the future.

CAPITOL ACTION NEEDED

Lack Of Funds Shuts Down FHA Home Loan Insurance

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Housing Administration Tuesday shut down its home loan insurance business because it has run out of authority to insure housing loans. Congressional action would be required to renew it.

At the time FHA Commissioner Norman Mason announced this, Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind) told the Senate that unless Congress votes more authority quickly the home building industry faces a 30-day shutdown.

"Somebody is playing politics in this," Capehart shouted on the Senate floor. He said he and Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala) had tried unsuccessfully last week and this week to get a Senate vote on a four billion dollar increase for FHA.

Capehart directed his remarks at Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas. Johnson and the Democratic Policy Committee control legislation coming before the Senate.

Johnson quietly replied that the FHA increase would be considered along with a general housing bill which will reach the Senate shortly.

"You can understand who is playing politics in this," Johnson told Capehart.

The Senate was nearing a vote on a bill to extend jobless pay benefits, and Capehart declared:

"We are asked to pass a bill to pay people who have no jobs and yet we do nothing on bill that would help people keep their jobs."

Two weeks ago when FHA asked Congress to increase its insurance authorization by four billion dollars, it estimated its previous authorization would last until June 10.

The ceiling was reached ahead of expectations, a spokesman said, because the volume of applications for insurance has increased markedly in recent weeks. Applications during the first two weeks of May, for example, totaled 8,300 compared with 3,700 in the same period a year ago.

FHA has insured home loans worth about $25,700,000,000, the limit set by Congress.

HOUSING UNIT ASKS REMOVAL OF COLE

Ouster of U. S. Aide Urged in Letter to Eisenhower From Anti-Bias Group

A drive for the removal of Albert M. Cole as Federal Housing Administrator was opened yesterday by the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

The committee based its attack on Mr. Cole's opposition to racial integration in Federal housing.

In a letter to President Eisenhower, the committee cited Mr. Cole's statements in San Francisco on Nov. 13. He said then that Federal housing agencies would continue to observe state and local segregation laws because the Government was under no obligation to impose integration on housing that received Government aid.

Algernon D. Black, chairman of the committee that represents twenty-eight civic, religious, labor and civil rights organizations, asked the President:

"Do you approve the reported statements of Administrator Cole? If so, how do you reconcile them with your own pronouncements and our constitutional guarantees?"

Mr. Black wrote that if Mr. Cole's position did not reflect the President's view "we think a change in personnel is indicated in favor of someone who would stand for the principles you have enunciated."

The committee letter charged that Mr. Cole's statements as reported in the press were reflected by his past record. It alleged that soon after he took office he sought to destroy the race relations service of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Mr. Cole, a Republican from Brown County, Kan., was appointed to the Federal post by President Eisenhower in 1953. He had been defeated for reelection as a Representative from Kansas by Howard S. Miller, a Democrat, in 1952.

The committee in 1955 and again in 1956 charged in letters to President Eisenhower that Federal funds were being used to further segregation in housing. It alleged that a recent report by the Commission on Race and Housing confirmed its charges.

The committee letter urged the President "to clarify, in unequivocal terms, your Administration's position on equal distribution of Federal housing benefits."

FHA Sets New Rules For Homes

Smaller Dwellings Now May Qualify For Coverage

By Paul Herron
Real Estate Editor

The Federal Housing Administration yesterday announced it will provide mortgage insurance on smaller homes and spelled out in 315 pages ways to make houses more comfortable and habitable.

The new "minimum property standards" which provide a base for builders to operate, now fit building conditions throughout the United States, FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason said. Prior to single set of regulations, building operations were governed by varying rules in 28 regional FHA offices.

Thomas C. Barringer, director of the D. C. Insuring Office of the FHA, said the new rules will mean slightly larger room sizes, more flexible bedroom sizes, with the smallest at least 80 square feet instead of a previous 70, and halls at least three feet wide.

Builders must meet these requirements, in effect about April 1, 1959, if they want their houses to qualify for FHA mortgage insurance.

In reducing the size of the minimum house the new rules specify that each living unit have at least two habitable rooms and a bathroom. However, in a two-family house one apartment may be an efficiency unit.

The new rules call for more storage space, better insulation and a better hot water heater guarantee.

Some of the more liberal provisions of the new "MPS" include lower ceiling heights in the basement, halls and bath, permission to build an inside kitchen with artificial light and mechanical ventilation and greater freedom in design.

Minimum lot sizes are no longer specified, but FHA will pass upon the adequacy of each lot.

The FHA emphasized that the new rules are minimum requirements and builders are allowed to add as many extras as they choose. In addition, builders must comply with local codes and ordinances as well as FHA specifications.

FHA Commissioner Mason Cites Private Builders

WASHINGTON — Realism makes the Dream House, according to FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason who spok eto the nations home builders Wednesday.

He told the delegates to the annual convention of the National Association of Home Builders in Chicago that he agreed with their principle that private enterprise was the real answer to providing the housing American families want. This, he said, can be don without government subsidy of any kind through the use of the FHA insured mortgage system which does not cost the taxpayers a cent.

Commissioner Mason pointed to the positive actions FHA has taken this year to help American families have better housing and to spur the production of needed new dwelling units. The actions include the new philosophy of FHA in granting credit, making it easier for families of moderate means to buy homes.

The FHA, he also said, has lowered the downpayments by reducing the cash that must be paid at the time of closing and also rescinding the requirement that closing costs must always be paid in cash.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK PRAISED

The industry was praised for its constructive work in new techniques of land planning and new design.

Commissioner Mason talked concretely about the plans home builders should be making right now for the spring market when new American families will be wanting Dream Houses.

In stressing realism and immediate action, Mr. Mason said he did not overlook the need for constant improvement and keeping FHA up-to-date.

In looking to the future the FHA chief outlined several legislative proposals. He said, "We are discussing with a broad sampling of both consumers and the home industry the advisability of a new program which would provide conventional lenders with insurance of the top 25 percent of the loans which they make.

UNCOMPLICATED PROCEDURE

The Commissioner said that the plan to insure the top 25 percent of a mortgage profolio would be an uncomplicated procedure, with lenders making the appraisals and handling the other steps involved in setting up home loans. Through co-insurance with FHA under this plan, lenders would carry a part of the risk.

He said that Congress was being aske dto set apart FHA's program of housing for the elderly, distinasked to set aptrt FHA's standard rental housing procedures, "so that its requirements can more surely result in the sort of accommodations which our aging people require."

New impetus is planned for urban renewal to assist communities in rebuilding blighted areas.

Other legislative proposals include removal of discount controls and raising the maximum insured mortgage limit from $20,000 to $30,000 to broaden the effectiveness of FHA's single family home program.

FHA Loan Insurance Program For Improvement In Biggest Year

WASHINGTON, D. C. —Federal Housing Administration's loan insurance program for home improvement and repair had one of its biggest years in 1957. Twenty-three bankers representing a cross section of FHA "Title I" lenders throughout the nation learned this at an advisory committee meeting in Washington January 27.

Business under Title I of the National Housing Act, which provides for FHA insurance of improvement and repair loans, had a dollar increase of 25 percent over the 1956 total.

FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason said there is every indication that the home improvement phase of FHA's loan insurance operations will continue its upward trend in 1958. Every item on the balance sheet points to a sound business operation: the volume of business is up and claims paid to cover lender' losses are down for the year.

Commissioner Mason said that insurance premiums collected last year in the Title I operation were $3,467,000 more than the 1956 total.

"This is quite remarkable," he said, "because Title I reduced its insurance rate from 0.65 percent to 0.55 percent last July."

The amount of net proceeds insured for 1957 was the third largest in Title I's 24-year history, surpassed only by the totals for 1953 and 1954.

FHA's Assistant Commissioner Roy F. Cooke, who administers the home improvement insurance programs, made the year-end report to the Lenders Advisory Committee. He said that claims paid to lenders were the lowest since the end of World War II, despite the large volume of insurance written.

Claims paid in 1955 amounted to $17,648,000 and dropped to $12,242,000 in 1956. In 1957 this figure was further reduced to $9,724,000-a savings of $2,518,000 over the previous year.

Net proceeds to borrowers continued to climb from $645,645,000 in 1955 and $691,992,000 in 1956 to $868,573,000 in 1957—a 25.5 percent increase over 1956. Average net proceeds per loan increased 14.3 percent to $781 in 1957 compared to $683 for 1956.

Of the 1957 volume, approximately 27 percent of the loans, accounting for 33 percent of the total net proceeds, were loans made by lenders directly to the borrowers; 73 percent of the loans covering 67 percent of the net sources of credit. The average loan in the first category amounted to $952 while for dealer loans the average net was $701.

The same upward trend in Title I business holds true in collections on accounts to recover money paid in claims to lenders. Over $10,444,000 was recovered in 1957--$100,000 more than was collected in 1956 and $923,000 more than 1955.

Mr. Cooke said that the continuing approach of FHA is to operate with a minimum of "red tape." In order to seek the views of bankers as to whether we were accomplishing this, a poll was taken to determine the concensus of those who have participated in the government's home improvement loan insurance program for years and who have extended hundreds of millions of dollars worth of credit.

Program Also Aims At Slums

Other Recession News, Page 12A, 2C

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The administration Monday announced a liberalized federal housing program which housing chief Albert M. Cole said can "provide an important stimulus to an upturn in the economy generally."

Cole said a wrap-up bill embodying the program — and providing a six-year $1,350,000,000 program of urban renewal grants — will be introduced in the Senate and House today.

Slum clearance and redevelopment are embraced in what the housing administration describes as urban renewal.

Other key features of the proposed legislation included:

1—An increase to $30,000 in the maximum mortgage insurance provided by the Federal Housing Administration. The present limit is $20,000 for one-family and two-family dwellings and $27,000 for three-family dwellings.

2—A new urban renewal plan to speed the rehabilitation of declining downtown areas. The government would guarantee repayment of private loans for this purpose up to a total of 150 million dollars.

3—A new program would be added to the college housing program, to help schools build student centers and related structures, and housing for nursing schools. This would be in addition to the direct college housing loan program for which a 200 million dollar increase in funds is being sought — from 925 million to $1,125,000,000.

4—A broadening of the 100 per cent mortgage insurance permitted for low-cost private housing to relocate families displaced by urban renewal, highway construction or other government action.

Albert Cole

BUILDERS LOSE:

Court hits refusal to sell FHA homes

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Builders and developers who avail themselves of FHA loan insurance and VA loan guarantees in home construction cannot refuse to sell such homes to colored persons.

That was the decision of Superior Judge James H. Oakley here last week.

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"CONGRESS," said Judge Oakley in a 16-page opinion, "must have intended the supplying of housing for all citizens, not just Caucasians and on an equal, not segregated basis.

"If the courts were to hold otherwise and accord to builders and realtors the unfettered freedom to refuse to sell FHA and VA housing to colored persons, the constitutional guarantees of equal protection and non-discrimination would be accorded only secondary importance."

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He stressed the fact that "government mortgage insurance . . . has boomed far beyond previous experience . . . all to the benefit not only of the general public but to the substantial advantage of all associated with it, including builders, sub-dividers and realtors."

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The decision is the first of its kind to call a judicial halt to wholesale refusal of builders and developers to sell FHA and VA housing to colored citizens.

It opens the way for a renewed attack on such practices by William H. Levitt who has taken advantage of FHA facilities to build two all-white cities and is planning another for New Jersey.

A similar suit against Levitt, in which the FHA was joined, was dismissed by a Pennsylvania Federal district court two years ago.

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FHA Prepares Booklet For Home Owners

To make sure that all new FHA home owners fully understand their rights and obligations, Director James C. Moreland of the Federal Housing Administration office in Chicago said the FHA has prepared an "FHA Home Owner's Guide" which lenders in this area will mail from now on to buyers of new homes inspected by the FHA during construction and financed with FHA-insured mortgages.

The new booklet explains the respective responsibilities of the F. H. A., the lender, and builder, and the home buyer in the transaction and discusses some conditions that the owner can expect to find in a newly built house.

"More families than ever before are taking advantage of the FHA plan of home ownership," Mr. Moreland asserted. "We are here to help home owners in every way we can. This booklet should help them by providing ready answers to some of the questions new owners most frequently ask us."

The booklet will be sent without charge to buyers of new homes and is on sale to the general public by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents a copy.

Legislation Dies

House Votes Down New Housing Bill

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House Monday killed a cut-down federal housing bill denounced by administration Republicans as extravagant and inflationary.

The action appeared to have ended all chances of enactment of new housing legislation this session. Before the vote, House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D.,-Tex.) said no other bill would be considered.

The measure failed to obtain the two-thirds vote necessary for passage under the short-cut procedure by which it was called up.

The bill would have provided 400 million dollars for slum elimination and urban renewal projects in the cities, and additional amounts for college dormitories and classrooms and housing for the elderly. It also would have made direct loans available for veteran home loans.

The final vote was 251-134 in favor of the bill, six votes short of the required two-thirds.

Republicans voted heavily against the measure. They called it ill conceived and inflationary and warned it faced a probable presidential veto if passed.

The bill had been voted out by the House Banking Committee at a $2,400,000,000 total. In a last minute effort to make it more acceptable, the amount was cut to a figure given as 975 million dollars by Rep. Albert Rains (D., Ala.), chairman of the housing subcommittee.

Double Rental Nixed

Officer Scolded In Housing Case

By MORTY FREEDMAN
Herald Staff Writer

A Miami policeman-landlord was rebuked by the City Commission Wednesday for crowding four Negro families into a rental unit zoned for two.

And by a 3-2 margin the commission denied Sgt. James Hendrix permission to continue use of the building at 1721 NW 57th St. for four rental units.

The four units would have increased his rental income from about $30 a week to $60. Sgt. Hendrix doubled the units without a city permit.

A large delegation of Negro homeowners in the area argued that permitting the multiple family use of the building would set a precedent which could turn the neighborhood of small homes into a slum area.

Hendrix' attorney, Ed Cowart, said the officer deserved a variance because he had suffered a "hardship" because the neighborhood was white when Hendrix bought the building but later it became a Negro neighborhood.

"We're now embarking on an urban renewal program to remove slum blights from our city," said City Commissioner Otis Shiver. "I just can't go along with this sort of thing.

"In this particular area we should be careful that we do not create a density that will in turn create a new slum area," he said.

"These people," he said, indicating Negro citizens present, "have nice homes there and they have fixed them up with lawns and shrubbery and I think they should keep them as they are."

Joining Shiver in opposing continued use of the building as a four-unit structure were Mayor Robert King High and Commissioner George DuBreuil.

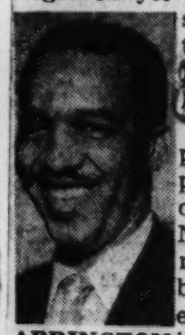
DuBreuil told Hendrix he had created his own hardship by not getting a city permit before altering the building.

"I'm sure that as a city employee you knew you were not doing the right thing," he told Hendrix.

Backing up the officer's request were Commissioners James High and B. E. Hearn.

Mayor Picks 1st Negro for Homes Unit

Mayor Robert King High announced Saturday that he is appointing Henry Arrington Negro lawyer and former assistant state attorney to the Miami Housing Authority.



ARRINGTON

High said 79 per cent of the public housing is occupied by Negroes but the race has never been represented on the housing panel in Miami. Arrington has served as an attorney to the authority.

The mayor said other southern states — including Alabama, Texas, Tennessee and North Carolina — had Negroes serving on housing authorities "with great success."

Arrington will replace Authority Member Peter McCabe whose term expires Tuesday. McCabe has been an authority member since 1939 and served as chairman.

Mayor High Finds Slum Conditions 'Appalling'

By MORTY FREEDMAN
Herald Staff Writer

A blazing slum dwelling underscored the word "appalling" that Miami's Mayor Robert King High used to describe the hovels he inspected on a slum tour last week.

Even as the mayor commented on one house being a "tinderbox," the fire engines were clanging to another only several blocks away.

The buildings Mayor High visited were among the ones that are still occupied after being ordered torn down three years ago. He said he was "absolutely appalled."

"It is absolutely shocking to me," the mayor said Saturday, "that after these facts were published several weeks ago there has still been no action by the city to have these firetraps vacated and torn down."

"In one of the homes I visited, occupied by a couple and their five children, the partitions were so weakened from termites that I could move an inside wall back and forth with one hand," said High.

Frank Kelly, whose operations as slum clearance head are due for an investigation by the Dade Grand Jury, was asked three weeks ago to submit a report to the city manager's office on disclosures made by The Herald.

He hasn't done so yet.

Houses visited on the mayor's tour were Coconut Grove shacks owned by Negro landlord E. W. F. Stirrup, Jr. and managed by Luther Brooks' Bonded Collection Agency.

The properties have been officially ignored by being listed "dead file" set up several years ago by Kelly. After a Herald check, the "dead" title on the file was changed to "pending."

In one house the mayor visited, a tenant said that after the slum stories appeared a city inspector looked the house over.

He didn't order the tenants to move. The house isn't wired properly for electricity, so they had strung an extension cord to the house next door, paying their neighbors for the current.

They were ordered to take the extension cord down. It constituted a fire hazard. So now they're using a kerosene lamp to provide light.

"They'd be better off with the extension cord," said the mayor. "They're using a kerosene lamp in a condemned house that is a tinderbox."

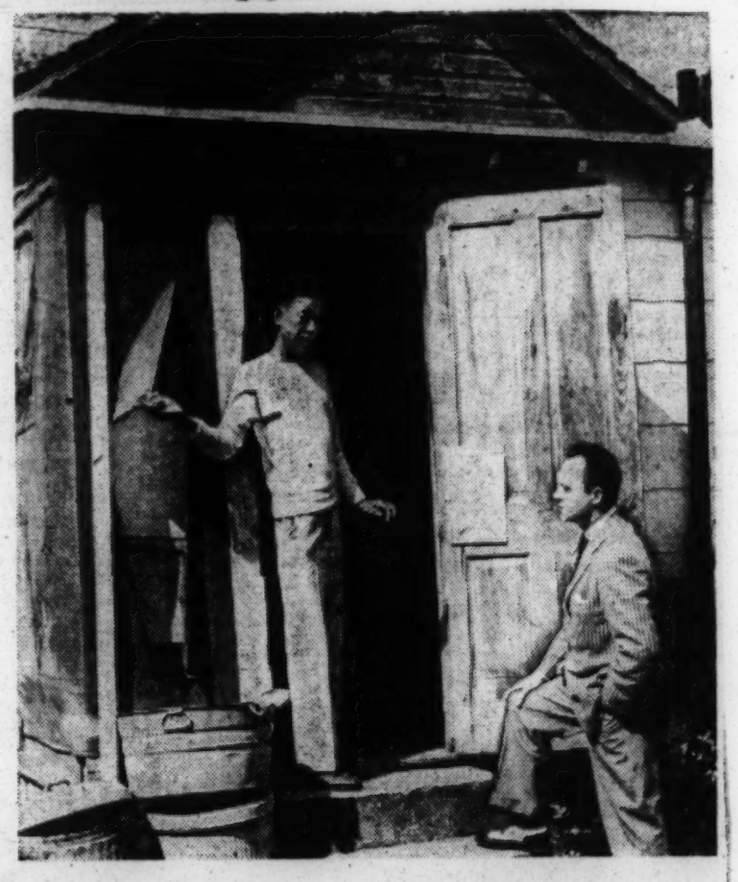
While High was remarking on the fire hazards in that house, he looked out the window and saw smoke billowing up from a slum house on fire at 3520 Grand Ave.

Enveloped by flames by the time the mayor arrived, the one-story frame and stucco building owned by Attorney Charles C. Moon, former Coral Gables city commissioner, was almost a total loss.

Joseph Chappell, Negro occupant, said the fire started when a kerosene stove on which his wife was cooking exploded.

Records in Kelly's slum clearance office show that Moon's house had never been inspected since Kelly's office was created in 1952.

Kelly said this is because the city doesn't give him enough inspectors. He said other slum dwellings in the Grove have been inspected and said Moon's was just one they hadn't reached.



Not Much Protection From Rain Beating In
... mayor talks to tenant in Coconut Grove slum

Negro Home Plans Draw Tampa Plaint

TAMPA, Aug. 15 (AP) — A delegation of East Tampa Bay residents submitted to the Hillsborough County Commission today petitions protesting a Negro housing subdivision for their area.

The commission took no immediate action on the problem.

Mrs. Gloria Bu[illegible] of Palm River said the petitions contained more than 2,500 signatures.

The petitions said the signers "resist the location of the proposed Negro settlement" which would be "in the midst of a strictly white settlement."

The project still is in the planning stage. Progress Village, a nonprofit organization composed of prominent white and Negro residents of Tampa, holds an option to 1,244 acres.

At a meeting last night 100 civic leaders of the East Bay area unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the subdivision in the area south of Palm River.

Several of those attending expressed a fear that the subdivision would cause a drop in real estate values.

—Herald Staff Photo by Doug Kennedy

This Fire Underscored Mayor's Rap at Miami's Slums

. . . blaze broke out during High's inspection tour

Illegitimacy Load Is 'Out of Control,' State Probers Told

Welfare Hearings Opened

See Story, Page 1B

By JUANITA GREENE
Herald Staff Writer

A special committee investigating state welfare opened hearings here Friday and got a lot of suggestions for solving the high cost of illegitimacy and old age.

County Welfare Director Paul Walker recommended that the state consider taking illegitimate children away from mothers who have a number of them.

The idea got immediate acceptance from State Rep. E. C. Rowell of Webster, Fla. He said the problem of illegitimate children on the state welfare rolls "is out of control."

After the hearing, Chairman James N. Beck of Palatka said he felt certain the committee would recommend the establishment of an adoption agency for Negro children.

Most of the illegitimate children on the welfare rolls, he said, are Negroes. There is no state agency set up now to handle their adoption.

Walker's report was one of many made to the special committee of the state House and Senate. His got the most response from committee members.

"I challenge the right of any woman," he said, "to present society time after time with children to support. Society has some rights, too."

Walker, along with other local welfare spokesmen, also recommended the state pass a law which would enable it to collect from the estates of persons who received old age assistance. Under present law the property now goes to children even though they could not or would not support their parents.

Walker also complained that state grants to old folks, dependent children, the disabled and the blind are not sufficient for them to live on. As a result, he said, the county must supplement them, and there is dual administration, which is costly.

Another big problem, he said, is the fact that many old people come here from other states, and eventually wind up on the welfare rolls.

The federal government, said Walker should be asked by the state to take cognizance of this fact and contribute more funds for old age assistance to Florida.

The committee hearing will continue at 9 a.m. today on the fourth floor of the Courthouse. Much of today's session will be spent getting local reaction to suggestions of some of the committee members.

At Friday's session the committee did a lot of listening and very little talking.

Other members of the Legislature on hand were Rep. J. B. Orr of Miami, Sen. W. E. Bishop of Lake City and Sen. H. H. Hair of Live Oak.

Dade Builders Not Alarmed at FHA 'Cutoff'

By DENNE PETITCLERC
Herald Staff Writer

The Federal Housing Administration, in a move aimed at jolting Congress into action, cut off Tuesday all authorization of home loans.

FHA Commissioner Norman Mason said from Washington that the FHA has run out of authority to insure housing loans—until Congress acts to increase it.

The FHA operates under a $25,700,000,000 ceiling set by Congress. This ceiling was reached ahead of expectation, Mason said, because of the recent influx of applications, touched off by lower down payments and an increase in available mortgage money.

Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R. Ind.) told the Senate Tuesday that unless Congress votes more authority quickly the home building industry faces a 30-day shutdown.

"Somebody is playing politics in this," Capehart shouted on the Senate floor. He said he and Sen. John Sparkman (D. Ala.) tried unsuccessfully last week and this week to get a Senate vote on a four billion dollar increase for FHA.

(The FHA does not make loans, but insures loans made by banks and private money lenders for homes. It has been in operation since 1934. Congress sets a limit on how much it can insure.)

South Florida builders, however, did not view the FHA move with alarm.

David B. Fleeman, president of the Home Builders Association, said it will mean a slight delay in getting new home loans through. "I'm sure Congress is aware of how vital the home building industry is to the country," he said, "we expect them to act quickly."

Fleeman said the situation could become serious if the delay was prolonged.

C. B. Spofford Jr., director of the Miami FHA office, said local loan applications will be received and processed right up to the commitment stage.

In this way, Spofford said mortgages will be ready for release as authorization becomes available, or Congress votes to increase the national limit.

A trickle of loans will be

MASON SPOFFORD

approved, Spofford said, as old mortgages are paid off. "When a $100 payment comes in," he said, "our office in Washington will be able to release $100 in insurance It's only a trickle, though."

Rep. Dante Fascell told The Herald in Washington late Tuesday that "any crisis, if there is a crisis, in the FHA will be a short - lived one. They've always gotten all the authorization they've needed."

Sen. Capehart pointed out that the Senate Banking Committee had unanimously approved the four billions of additional FHA insurance May 19 as separate legislation.

The bill is part of the Senate omnibus housing bill. Capehart declared that unless it is considered separately, it will be delayed for 30 days, dealing a stiff blow to the nation's home builders and buyers.

"There is no excuse in the world for not acting on this," he said. "No one opposes it."

Capehart said the omnibus housing bill contains more than 80 pages and many controversial features. The House is now considering a similar authorization bill.

Fraud Inflates Florida's Illegitimacy Bill

Many people have claimed that Florida is becoming a "welfare state." Is this true? This is the second of a series of articles which take a close look at the problems within Florida's public welfare system.

By BERT COLLIER
Herald Staff Writer

The cost of illegitimacy in Florida is more than $8,000 a day.

That's the amount the taxpayers shell out through the Department of Public Welfare to support a pitiful group of unwanted children.

There are nearly 70,000 youngsters on the relief rolls and one in seven doesn't know who his parents are. This group has been shunted off to relatives or foster homes and they are dependent for their needs on the relief checks doled out by the state.

Those checks average only $21 a month for each child.

Though the money cost is high, and adds up to such a tremendous relief bill that some officials think Florida is in danger of becoming a "welfare state," intangible costs are even higher.

A study just made in one Florida county showed 14 per cent of the "welfare" children are absent from school more than half the time.

Looking behind that startling statistic, welfare workers found the causes included sickness from improper or insufficient diet, and lack of proper clothing. Many of the boys and girls were too embarrassed to attend school.

One worker reported many children on relief were "following in the footsteps of their delinquent parents — and starting much earlier."

It does not make a pretty picture for wealthy Florida, but many legislators are reluctant to increase payments to dependent children because of growing evidence that fraud plays a part in the situation.

Rep. E. C. Rowell of Webster, member of the legislative committee which opens hearings on welfare problems here this week, said:

"There are many cases where mothers make a business out of having illegitimate children. It increases the cost of the welfare program and penalizes deserving people."

Evidence uncovered by the committee included "numerous cases" of Negro fathers living with families but disclaiming paternity so the children can receive state aid.

Committee members have asked some of the Florida Congressional delegation for help in cross-checking income tax returns of these family heads, to learn if the children are claimed as dependents.

While illegitimacy poses a tough problem for welfare officials, absconding fathers who admit but shirk their responsibilities are a tougher one.

Runaway dads are the largest single cause of children's being dependent.

Florida, trying to control this, has adopted the uniform support law by which fathers can be forced to support their children without being extradited from one state to another and tried under criminal law.

Members of the Legislature are getting ready to crack down, to overhaul the welfare system.

Suggestions range from making non-support of children a felony, carrying two-year prison terms, to requiring relief applicants to swear to need under oath, opening the way to perjury charges if fraud is discovered.

"The problem is not being alleviated, it is increasing," said one member of the committee which comes here this week.

Tomorrow: A plan to control fraud in relief.

46a 1958 GENERAL (HOUSING)

Repeal Of All Housing Bias Laws Urged By Republic Fund Group

By SAMUEL P. PERRY, JR.

NEW YORK CITY.— (ANP) — After an intensive three-year study of the housing problems of American minorities, the Commission on Race and Housing of the Fund of the Republic, Inc., has made public its report.

The commission enlisted the assistance of competent Negro social scientists from Atlanta, Fisk and Howard Universities, Colonel Campbell C. Johnson, assistant to the director, Selective Service System, Washington, Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk U., and Dr. Robert C. Weaver, New York state rent control administrator.

The commission's chairman was Earl B. Schwulst, president of the Bowery Savings Bank, and its panel included such prominent persons as Dr. Gordon W. Allport, Harvard University; Henry R. Luce, editor-in-chief, Time, Life and Fortune magazines; and Clark Kerr, president, University of California, Berkley.

RESTRICTIONS NOTED

The report of the commission revealed that 27 million Americans nearly one-sixth of the total population of the country, were restricted in opportunities to live in neighborhoods of their choice because of race, color, or ethnic reasons.

Of that total, 18 million persons were non-white (95 per cent of them Negroes).

The net results, according to the report, of the housing discrimination was to handicap minority groups socially, economically, and psychologically, thus denying the conutry "the full use of their potential strength for national security and welfare."

"Segregated housing," stated the commission, "has damaged the country as well as minority groups.

"Residential segregation leads directly to segregation in schools, churches, hospitals, places of public recreation, welfare and civic activities.

"In general, non-white entry in previously white residential areas does not necessarily depress real estate values.

"Under certain conditions, it may increase values."

The commission urged President Eisenhower to establish a committee on the elimination of discrimination in federal housing and urban renewal programs.

MAYORS PRODDED ON HOUSING FIGHT

Javits Bids Them Lobby for More Federal Aid—Asks 10 Billion, 15-Year Plan

By JOHN H. FENTON
Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Dec. 3—Senator Jacob K. Javits urged mayors today to lobby for a Federal housing program.

The New York Republican said a $500,000,000 urban renewal bill might have been saved in the House at the last session of Congress by more vigorous prodding of Representatives seeking re-election.

"Don't underestimate your influence on Federal legislation," he told a group of mayors at the closing luncheon session of the annual American Municipal Congress.

Since Sunday, more than 1,500 delegates, under the auspices of the American Municipal Association, have been discussing city-Federal problems at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

In a morning speech, Senator Albert Gore scored the Administration for what he called its failure to develop more quickly peacetime uses of atomic energy. He included the Atomic Energy Commission in his indictment.

The Administration "has not pushed our reactor development program with the degree of vigor commensurate with the opportunities which our improved technology have presented," the Tennessee Democrat charged.

While it still is cheaper to manufacture electricity from coal, he said, the shift to atomic power is within a few years of realization.

10-Year Program Urged

Ealier, the association adopted resolutions calling for more Federal help to cities and large metropolitan areas in meeting housing, highway and slum clearance programs. An urban renewal act providing $600,000,000 a year for ten year was asked.

Senator Javits urged that $10,000,000,000 be spent over fifteen years, but then said he would be willing to accept the mayors' resolution.

A critical lack of middle and low-income housing, particularly for minority-group families, is second only to civil rights as a major domestic issue, the Senator declared. He asserted several times that housing was "intimately connected" with civil rights.

Mr. Javits said more progress had been made in "studies and surveys than in doing the job" of implementing the National Housing Act of 1949.

In other resolutions, the association called for an outlay of $175,000,000 a year for regular and emergency to airports, and further unspecified aid to depress areas.

It urged more appropriations for Federal help in developing civil defense programs, and asked the Government to release property it no longer needed.

Legislation was favored to enable communities to collect taxes on property and inventory owned by the Government in the process of manufacturing. It was explained that a recent California Supreme Court decision had ruled out such taxes.

Further studies of atomic energy and its impact on communities were urged. These would include radioactive waste disposal, planning for water resources and controlling pollution.

Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze of Cleveland was elected president of the association. He succeeds Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco. Mayor Raymond R. Tucker of St. Louis was elected vice president.

New FHA Plan Lessens Home Buying Restrictions

Defender Chicago Ill. Jan 2 '58
Sat 1-11-58

By HUGH L. MORRIS

WASHINGTON—(INS)—FHA's New Year's resolution to do better in 1958 than in 1957 features a significant liberalization of requirements on family income needed to buy a home.

In the first written "statement of mortgage credit philosophy" to field offices, FHA pointed out that "overcaution can unfairly deprive an American family from owning a home of its own."

The statement said that, as a guide line, a family could afford housing costs of one-third of the first $3,000 of income after taxes, plus one-fifth of the remainder of the spendable income.

General

AN EXAMPLE

As an illustration, it said that a family with $3,300, after taxes, could generally support a mortgage of $12,000.

This represents a considerable liberalization over the present rule of thumb used by many lenders that a family can afford to spend for housing one-fifth of its total income.

A housing industry spokesman said the most important part of the new FHA "philosophy" was elimination of a negative attitude and recognition of more leeway as family incomes rise.

In 1956, 30 percent of the FHA-insured homes were valued above $15,000 compared with one percent in 1950, and 20 percent of the families had efeective incomes of more than $8,000 compared with three percent in 1950.

SMALLER SHARE

The FHA statement said there has been a tendency for families with rising incomes to spend a smaller share of it for housing.

It added: "We do not believe this is a desirable trend. We do not wish in any way to support or encourage this trend."

In addition to allowing families more discretion on how to spend their income, the statement said that each application must be considered on the basis of the individual's circumstances.

It pointed out that no otherwise acceptable credit application for a house costing over $12,000 should be turned down just because of the inclusion of a complete kitchen.

SEPARATE FINANCING

Long experience has shown, it was explained, that if appliances are not included in the house and mortgage, the buyer will finance them separately on short - term credit and at higher rates.

The statement also said that no otherwise acceptable credit application for a house costing over $15,000 should be rejected just because of the operating cost of air conditioning.

It explained that the savings on heat, cleaning, laundry and medical expense resulting from air conditioning more than offset the added cost of operating a compressor in hot weather.

FHA, which has just fully accepted air conditioning in homes, also made this flat statement: "Within a few years, any house that is not air conditioned will probably be obsolescent, so FHA should start encouraging the inclusion of air conditioning."

INCOMES IN SOUTH REPORTED ON RISE

Home 985

But They Remain Lowest of Any Major Region, T.V.A. Study Shows

New York Times

Special to The New York Times.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 1—The average income of families in the South "is lower than for any other major region in the United States." But gains are being made along with industrial development, a forty-six-page booklet report issued by the Tennessee Valley Authority shows.

Gen 2-3-58

The study is called "Income Levels in the Upper Tennessee Valley." It is a comparative analysis, with recommendations for needs, and "supports the conclusions and general recommendations reached in other studies of low-income rural areas in the South."

Variations in income levels were found in thirty-five counties studied, even in counties just a few miles apart. For example, Anderson County in Tennessee, had the highest average family income, $3,220 in 1950. In four other near-by counties, average family income was less than one-third of this amount. And in one mountain county, Hancock, the average family income was $790.

Characteristics Noted

The report points out the following characteristics in high-income counties that it says distinguish them from the low-income group:

A high degree of industrialization; a larger proportion of population gainfully employed; more persons engaged in higher paying nonfarm jobs; a higher average return per work in both agriculture and manufacturing; greater investments in health and education; a larger share of the population in the more productive age group (18 to 59 years), and a net migration into the higher-income counties of persons from other areas to take advantage of better paying jobs.

The report noted among other things;

"A decline in the number of people dependent on agriculture for a livelihood and an increase in the quantity of productive farm capital for those remaining in agriculture are necessary adjustments to raise farm-family income in low-income rural counties to a level more nearly approaching that o high-income counties."

The following program to attain this end was suggested;

¶Creation of more economically rewarding alternatives to low-income farming, chiefly industrial jobs.

¶Better information for farm pepole about improved farming practices, and also about good-paying nonfarm job opportunities.

¶Vocational and other technical training to provide low-income families with the skills for nonfarm employment.

¶Motivation of low-income rural families, through better school and health programs, to attain an improved level of economic well-being.

Spotlight Housing As Major Aid In Halting Recession

Defender Chicago Ill.
Sat. 3-15-58

By HUGH L. NORRIS

WASHINGTON — (INS) — Housing is in the spotlight as a major aid to abort the recession, and an extra boost by the federal government will add momentum to the already-expanding industry.

The boost is provided in "emergency" legislation being pushed through Congress on a priority basis to have an immediate impact on the economy in the spring building season.

46a

The Administration wants to boost housing without going as far as Democratic leaders of Congress would like, and the resulting legislation likely will be a compromise between the two views.

It will provide more mortgage money, but builders privately fear it will do little to encourage home-buying.

General

ARREST DECLINE

Sen. John Sparkman (D.) Ala. said his two-billion dollar aid program "to arrest the present economic decline and to promote quick recovery" would make 200,000 more new homes possible this year.

Federal housing chief Albert M. Cole agreed that some "upsurge" in housing is desirable, but he warned against "drastic" direct federal aid ith private mortgage money becoming more available.

Construction currently is running at a little more than one million starts a year, and builders are reported ready to beef up their operations if buyers are receptive to the spring models.

An incentive to buyers — particularly of low-cost homes — is a small reduction provided by the Sparkman bill in the down payment required on purchase of government-insured mortgages up to $13,500.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE

It would require three per cent of the first $13,500 instead of three per cent of the first $10,000 under the current schedule.

Unchanged would be the rate of 15 per cent on the remainder up to $15,000 and 30 per cent on the amount between $15,000 and $20,000.

The bill calls for a new one billion dollar revolving fund to be used by the Federal National Mortgage association to buy FHA and GI mortgage of up to $13,500 at par instead of discounted.

It also would put up additional money for military and direct GI loan housing and for extra buying of government - insured mortgages at the discretion of the President as an anti-recession measure.

Most controversial feature of the proposal is the interest rate which likely will be settled only by floor votes.

As a quick spur to business recovery, the Sparkman bill has been given priority by the Democratic leaderships over administration housing bills introduced in the Congress.

Major features of the administration proposals directly affecting home buyers would lift the ceiling on FHA-insured mortgages from $20,000 to $30,000. Down payments would not be changed.

Expect $200 Million Home Fund To Provide New Work

By HUGH L. MORRIS

WASHINGTON — (INS) — The economy should feel immediate, though limited, stimulation from 200 million dollars released for government purchase of FHA-insured home mortgages up to $10,000.

It is designed to encourage construction of low-cost houses, make them easier for moderate-income families to buy and provide new work throughout the many industries allied with home building.

At the full limit of $10,000 each, the money will finance the construction of 20,000 houses.

JOB OPENINGS

With one out of every six workers dependent in some way on home building for jobs, even 20,000 new houses could have a noticeable effect on the economy. It would mean orders for:

380,000 gallons of paint, 218 million board feet of lumber, 200,000 kitchen cabinets, 94 million bricks, 31,000 bathtubs, 40,000 tons of steel, 250 doors, 480,000 sacks of cement — plus proportionate amounts of other supplies that go into houses.

The impact is expected to be felt in the critical two or three months ahead, and the White House said Congress will be asked to provide more money for the same purpose if it is necessary.

The Federal National Mortgage Association will use the money to buy mortgages at par under FHA programs.

RELAX STANDARDS

These are regular 1-4 family houses, servicemen's homes and housing in outlying areas where construction standards are relaxed for FHA insurance on houses which buyers may help to complete.

The $10,000 limit on the mortgages was imposed because the easing of money has not yet had much effect in that price range.

Houses priced under $10,000 make up 10 percent of the number insured by FHA, and those priced from $10,000 to $12,000 account for an additional 12 percent of the total.

5 1-4 PERCENT INTEREST

Current down payment schedules and the 5 1-4 percent FHA interest rate will apply. The down payment on a $10,000 house is $300 and although it is only $600 on a $12,000 house the buyer would have to put up $2,000 to qualify for the new mortgage aid.

According to the White House announcement, the program will enable builders to arrange favorable financing for construction as well as for the mortgage, and to start work immediately.

Advance commitments will be approved for primary lenders to sell the mortgages to FNMA at par in the secondary market. They will not have to put up 2½ percent in fees and stock purchases.

Lenders will put up only 3-4 percent on commitments and an additional 3-4 percent on delivery of the mortgages.

With the FNMA concession on discounts and fees, the lenders many take an extra profit of $1- to $3 — depending on geographical area and down payments—on every $100 of mortgages they finance.

Predict 1,100,000 New Homes If Employment Holds

By HUGH L. MORRIS

WASHINGTON — (INS) — Federal housing chief Albert M. Cole believes 1,100,000 new homes will be sold this year if jobs and mortgage funds hold up.

He said this is the volume needed and it should include 70,000 units for military and public housing, 250,000 to replace destroyed units and the remaining 780,000 to house new families and raise living standards.

Cole, who gave the figures in testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, said there will be a need for this volume on home-building through the early 1960s, with requirements jumping to 1,300,000 a year by 1965.

ONE MILLION NOW

The housing chief was reminded that current starts are running at the rate of about one million and was asked what would be the cost if the year as a whole fell 100,000 short of his estimate.

He estimated the actual cost of the 100,000 houses in question would be about one billion dollars, and would generate other expenditures of about four billion dollars in a wide cross-section of the economy, so that the net loss would be five billion dollars.

Concerning the number of starts, Cole said: "Generally speaking, in my judgment it is a question of availability (of mortgage) funds and continued employment.

MATTER OF JOBS

He said if people who want houses don't buy them, "it may be they may not be employed or do not have the monthly payments.

"It may be that money could be tight . . . it may be that they feel they are priced out of the market, that the houses which are available . . . are too high for them."

Cole added that there has been a "definite improvement" in mortgage money as a result of federal reserve board actions in lowering discount rates and reserve requirements.

Federal housing administrator Norman Mason said he would not be surprised if more than 1,100,000 homes were built this year because the industry is aiming at the mass lower-cost market.

$10,000 HOME

Mason explained that by lower-cost he was talking about a $10,000 home that may range in price from $8,500 in one part of the country to $12,000 in another part.

Mason predicted that if the industry meets the demand by moderate income families, there would be a need for a million and a half — perhaps more -- new homes a year within the next three years.

The FHA administrator also noted that foreclosures were running at a rate of less than one half of one per cent and that home loans in default are at the lowest rate in history.

Mason added: "This doesn't mean that the conditions in this country are too terrible right now."

Progress reported in housing for elderly

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Significant advances have been made in providing housing suitable for the nation's senior citizens, but the volume of such dwelling units planned or under way is only a fraction of what is needed, an American

The article, "Housing for the elderly," states that interest in this field has been stimulated by a special program incorporated into the Housing Act of 1956.

"Private builders and a wide variety of religious, fraternal, philanthropic, and labor groups," according to the article, have joined forces with the Federal and State governments to help provide specially designed living accommodations where "people can spend their later years in dignity and comfort."

IN ASSESSING progress made thus far, the article notes that at the close of 1957, a little more than a year after the Housing Act of 1956 was passed, the Federal Housing Administration had applications for mortgage insurance on 17 projects developed exclusively for the elderly.

The value of these projects was well over $100 million, and they are designed to accommodate from 18,000 to more than 20,000 elderly households.

In addition, "the public low-rent phase of the program has been gaining momentum." Near the end of 1957, there were some 62 publicly owned projects either under construction or to be built, with 4,610 units specifically set aside for older people.

Cite Plan To Extend Racially Mixed Housing Across U.S.

Defender

"We aim to extend the pattern of equal housing opportunity nationally," Jackie Robinson, first Negro to play major league baseball, old an audience of 500 in a call for an end to segregation in housing at the founding dinner of Modern Community Developers, Tuesday night at the Hotel Savoy Plaza, New York.

Sat. 6-7-58

The dinner launched the new national agency to assist builders of integrated housing with funds and guidance.

Chicago, Ill.

Presentation of the first annual Averell Harriman Equal Housing Opporuniy Award was made jointly to Robinson, MCD board member, and Kivie Kaplan, Boston manufacturer and key figure in the corporation's formation. Both serve as co-chairmen of the life membership committee of the N. A. A. C. P.

SPEAKERS HEARD

The gathering also heard Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin, Charls Abrams, chairman, N. Y. Stae Commission against Discrimination, John McDermott, secretary, Catholic Housing Council o Philadelphia, and Morris Milgram president, Modern Community Developers, Inc.

A. Philip Randolph, vice president AFL-CIO, and president o Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was chairman of the nationa committee of sponsors.

Sen. Joseph S. Clark, of Pennsylvania, and Harold Buttenheimer, editor, American City Magazine, were honorary co-chairmen.

Robinson stressed the practical validity of moral and democratic principles in his remarks o accepting the award. He cited as proof the successful record of Morris Milgram, the new corporation's president, in building integrated housing.

"We aim to extend the pattern of equal housing opportunity nationally," he said. "We will speed the time when the days of 'disnegrated housing will be numbered. It just won't pay as well as truly American democratic housing."

NO NEW LAWS

Milgram, in advocating firm governmental action against segregation in housing, declared:

"The federal government needs no new legislation to end segregation in government insured housing. It merely needs the will to enforce the statement signed by all builders of FHA and VA housing that there is no written restrictive covenant.

"The scores of all-white towns built with government insured mortgages," Milgram charged, 'will stand for years to condemn Americans as racists in the eyes of the two-thirds of the world that s non-white.

"At Concord Park in Trevose, Pa., where 139 families, 55 per cent white and 45 per cent Negro, live without racial friction, we've had our laboratory, or pilot plant, for housing integration.

"In Greenbelt Knoll, in Philadelphia, where I live among 19 families, seven Negro, inour two Princeton developments, and in our rehabilitation work near the University of Pennsylvania, we've had fine trial runs," Milgram declared. "Now with Modern Community Developers, inegrated housing in America will be in production."

EXCITING PLAN

"Nearly a dozen builders have in recent weeks told me how excited they were about MCD's formation," the young Philadelphia builder continued. "Earlier this year, five builders in as many states told me they were giving up their all-white housing, and would henceforth build only integrated communities.

"MCD will help these builders with a portion of the capital they need, and with advice on all aspects of building, financing and selling integrated housing.

"Proof that racially integrated new housing developments are practical today can be found not only in the success of such a pioneer project as Concord Park, but also in a study by George and Eunice Grier, soon to be published by the Commission on Race and Housing, which found 50 integrated housing developments built by private capital in the last few years," Mr. Milgram declared.

Milgram, who in 1956 received the Walter White award of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and was the 1958 Sidney Hillman lecturer at the University of Minnesota, concluded with a challenge to American builders "to practice in community building at home the democracy our country preaches abroad," and to civic leaders "to live their belief in democracy.

Senator Proxmier told the Assembled guests:

Federal funds should never be permitted to help perpetuate patterns of segregation and discrimination in home building." He stressed the VA and FHA loans andd loan guarantees should be made available only on a strict open housing basis.

PRESIDENT HAILS THE HANDICAPPED

Notes They Inspire Him Not to Feel 'Sorry for Myself' —Gives Annual Awards

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 8—President Eisenhower saluted the nation's physically handicapped today as a group that had inspired him to carry the burdens of office "without feeling sorry for myself."

The President left his desk in the White House just before noon to present the Presidential trophy to Mrs. Louise Lake of Salt Lake City as "handicapped American of the year."

General Eisenhower has been a regular participant in the annual meetings here of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped. Today he told the delegates at the Inter-Departmental Auditorium that, "I know of no group that so inspires me to go back home and go to work without feeling sorry for myself so much as this one does."

The President recalled that last year he had presented the handicapped trophy to a lad in a wheel chair who made radios. He said that the gift radio he had received from the boy had prompted him to reflect that, "no matter how hard a job is, a man's will can do it so long as he is above ground."

President Gives Awards

After giving Mrs. Lake the Presidential trophy with its engraved facsimile of the Eisenhower signature, the President presented cash awards to the winners of a national essay contest sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans. The essay topic had been, "How Hiring the Handicapped Helps You and Me."

The first prize of $1,00 went this year to George Kessler of Aquinas High School of Augusta, Ga. General Eisenhower grinned when presenting the prize money to the boy from "one of my favorite towns."

President Eisenhower singled out Mrs. Lake for special praise. While looking down at her in the wheel chair at his elbow, General Eisenhower spoke of the courage, persistence and effort that had enabled her to overcome the handicap of arms and legs once crippled by polio.

"The thrilling part of it," the President said, "was that as she went through that entire exercise of developing herself to do something, her thought was always for others—she helped them."

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield had told the audience of more than a thousand from all states and territories that medical authorities had adopted or recommended the course of treatment for withered muscles that Mrs. Lake had worked out for herself by trial and error.

Later in the day the President helped plant a twenty-two foot scarlet oak tree on the White House South Lawn to replace the "Theodore Roosevelt oak" that had been uprooted by high winds a year ago.

Theodore Roosevelt Hailed

General Eisenhower presented more awards at the tree planting ceremony that commemorated the first President Roosevelt as the "father of conservation." They were the "Smokey Bear" awards for fire prevention.

After tossing four shovels full of earth about the planted oak, General Eisenhower briefly recalled the conservation efforts of Thoedore Roosevelt. From modest beginnings, he remarked, the United States was now carrying out reforestation at the rate of a billion trees annually.

Late this afternoon President Eisenhower practiced golf shots with the short irons a stone's throw from the oak.

President's Remark

The text of the President's remarks to the meeting on the handicapped follows:

"I think that each year I have been able to come to meet with the President's Committee on Assistance to the Physically Handicapped. I know of no group that so inspires me to go back home and go to work without feeling sorry for myself so much as does this one.

"Last year, I recall, our outstanding physically handicapped citizen here was a lad in a wheelchair who made radios. I took home that radio and it reminded me—it inspired me—to say to myself no matter how hard a job is, a man's will can do it so long as he is above ground.

"I know of nothing that I prize more than his gift to me last year of that radio that he had made. This year, and I think for the first time, Mrs. Lake—that we have a lady that has been named the outstanding citizen of those who are handicapped.

"I have read her story. I read it in The Desert News, a paper from Utah. It told not only of the tremendous struggle that she made to rehabilitate herself so that she could do things for herself, but you got a picture of the courage that it took—the persistence—the effort. The thrilling part of it was that as she went through the entire exercise of developing herself to do something, her thought was always for others. She helped them.

"She has been one of the representatives, you might say, of the whole effort that is represented by the President's Committee to help the Physically Handicapped.

"This work is going forward throughout the country and is being forwarded by people who are inspired with the same courage—the same readiness to help."

"The spirit of sacrifice of Mrs. Lake is evidenced by the fact that General [Melvin J.] Maas [blind leader of the President's committee] has told me that more than three million people have been classified as physically handicapped and who would therefore, without training, with help—or without self-help—have been merely charges on society, are actually members of that society that are producing the things that they need and that we need.

"They are helping America grow, get stronger, more prosperous—not only materially but what is more important, spiritually; not to be defeated by anything.

"So you can imagine, feeling as I do the pride I feel in being able to hand the awards to the essay winners, the high school students—one of them, I hear, is from one of my favorite towns, Augusta, Ga.—and finally to present the annual award to Mrs. Lake.

"This is one of the most pleasant, most inspiring ceremonies I participate in, and I am sure that every person here has exactly that feeling.

"Thank you very much."

Associated Press Wirephoto

'HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF YEAR,' Mrs. Louise Lake, gets award in capital from President Eisenhower.

U.S. BARS DELAYS IN SLUM-RAZING

Cities and Towns Warned They Will Lose Allocations If They Dawdle on Plans

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

Cities and towns that have been dawdling over slum-clearance plans for which Federal funds have been earmarked are being warned by the Government that the allocations will be withdrawn unless they move quickly.

Walter S. Fried, regional administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, disclosed yesterday that allocations already has been canceled for projects that failed to make headway in Troy, Fall River, Mass., and Dover, N. H.

Warnings of imminent cancellation have been sent to other communities in this seven-state region. A review is under way of other projects on which there has been unseemly delay in submitting specific plans after obtaining a slum clearance allocation and planning study grant on the basis of a preliminary outline.

Two-year Limit Set

From now on, Mr. Fried said capital grant reservations for any project will automatically expire two years after approval of the preliminary application if the municipal or other local agency has not filed and obtained Federal approval of more complete plans and a grant contract.

The Federal agency will refuse to reserve capital funds for any new project, Mr. Fried declared, unless local officials "demonstrate a reasonable presumption that a successful project will result from the planning and will be carried out expeditiously."

"Although it may not be practical to apply an inflexible rule, it is the belief of the agency that most projects can be planned in eighteen months," Mr. Fried said.

Albany, after a delay of eight years, saved its $3,653,722 Federal reservation for slum clearance aid from cancellation when the City Council approved on Thursday the downtown redevelopment plan and sent it to the H. H. F. A. The project calls for new retail shops, a parking garage and other private construction on a thirteen-acre slum site two blocks south of the capital's main business district.

After obtaining a Federal reservation in July, 1950, Albany officials let their planning drag because of uncertainty over state arterial highway plans that would affect the district. There were other reasons, too, until Mayor Erastus Corning appointed a director of urban redevelopment a year ago to start things moving again.

Reason for New Policy

The weeding out of inactive projects is intended to serve two main purposes: It will free the earmarked funds for other projects, and it will make it clear to local officials that the Federal agency regards slum clearance and Title I redevelopment as having graduated from the experimental and "dream plan" stage to a practical real estate operation.

The Federal-city slum clearance program, made possible by the Housing Law of 1949, has snowballed after a slow beginning. In the last year there have been so many requests for Federal aid that allotments have been exhausted, and Federal Housing officials across the country are awaiting the start of the new fiscal year with a backlog of applications totaling $220,000,000.

Mr. Fried noted that a comparatively small allocation could go a long way in promoting redevelopment of blighted areas in small communities. In Tarrytown, a single acre was cleared of dilapidated structures with $166,800 Fed-

eral aid an dconverted into a municipal parking area. In the six months since its completion, the city has issued several permits for substantial private construction in the immediate area.

The Tarrytown project is the only one completed, and the only one to have reached the construction stage, of a dozen projects in the Hudson River Valley approved for Federal allocations.

Other Hudson Valley Projects

A project in North Tarrytown, delayed for four years, may lose its $433,033 allocation unless it moves fast.

A Newburgh project with a $1,167,000 Federal reservation, and one in Catskill for $85,000, have produced no final plan in eighteen months. More recent Hudson Valley projects, in good standing, and the amounts of Federal grant reservations, are:

A second Albany project, $536,535; Greenburgh Township, $1,825,000; Nyack, $700.-000; Peekskill, $1,865,000; Poughkeepsie, $244,800; White Plains, $5,500,000, and Yonkers, $1,781,471. The Nyack, Peekskill and White Plains reservations are informal and cannot be legalized until new funds become available after July 1.

These projects have been planned under Title I of the National Housing Law. This authorizes local communities to acquire slum properties and resell them at a markdown to private developers. The Federal Government makes good two-thirds of the price difference and the local government one-third.

Mr. Fried said the Hudson Valley situation coud be regarded as typical of what is happening elsewhere.

The new policy does not endangre any of the Title I projects in the New York City program. This city, first in the nation to use Title I aid for slum clearance, has more projects completed and more in construction and planning than any other city.

No Housing Bill Likely To Pass

Partisan Fight Apparently Dooms Measure

FACED VETO, ANYWAY

By United Press International

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16. — A Democratic-Republican fight in the House threatened Saturday to kill new housing legislation and deprive big cities of the Federal funds to carry on slum clearance and urban renewal projects.

The 11th hour "war of nerves" developed when the House was forced by its Rules Committee into a position where no housing bill can be passed except by a two-thirds majority under a gag against amendments.

Republican leaders said Saturday after meeting with White House officials at the Capitol that they would stand firm and block passage of an administration-opposed omnibus housing bill which Democrats will offer for a showdown vote Monday.

Measure Cut Down

The Republicans were confident they could block the measure despite word that Democratic strategists were busily cutting the size of their $2,400,-000,000 bill to "less than a billion dollars" in a move to improve its chances for passage.

Democrats, on the other hand, turned thumbs down on the possibility that the House might be permitted to vote on a new stripped-down 400-million-dollar housing bill drafted Friday by House Republicans and deemed "acceptable" by the Administration.

Representative Albert Rains (D., Ala.), author of the Democratic bill, said that if it failed to pass on Monday, "there will be no housing bill as far as I'm concerned."

Republicans at the meeting with White House officials were told that if the less costly version of the Democratic bill were passed, the President probably would veto it because of opposition to its many far-reaching and controversial features.

Federal Housing Chief Albert M. Cole has charged that the Democratic bill would be inflationary and would boost the price of houses.

Bill 'Acceptable'

The Republican bill, introduced by Representative Edgar W. Hiestand (R., Calif.) would not provide all of the housing legislation sought by the Administration and contained some provisions it opposed.

Nevertheless, Cole Friday night endorsed it as "acceptable." He added, "It isn't all we would like but under the circumstances I believe everyone interested in passing housing legislation this year should be able to agree on this bill."

The Republican bill would provide for one year of Federal grants of 200 million dollars for slum clearance and urban renewal and 200 million dollars in college housing loans. The Administration had requested no more grants than that for the current year but had asked Congress to apporve a six-year slum clearance and urban renewal program.

Report Shows Progress Made In Housing For Older Persons

WASHINGTON (UP)—Progress is being made in one of the most neglected areas of housing—homes for the elderly—a recent government report shows.

The report indicates that while the problem is still sizable, the situation is improving.

The latest step toward more and better housing for older persons is a conference on the subject to be held in Washington May 28. This meeting on "housing our senior citizens" will bring together home builders, government housing officials and representatives of community organizations.

According to the conference sponsors, the National Housing Center and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), it "will be the first national workshop set up to analyze intensively the practical problems and programs involved in constructing and financing such housing."

In announcing the conference, its chairman, New Jersey builder and NAHB first vice-president Carl T. Mitnick, said, "it is aimed at stimulating more home builder interest in this market as well as realistic appraisal of currently available governmental program tools . . . and development of necessary recommendations to fill any existing gaps."

A picture of current conditions in housing for senior citizens is sketched in the latest issue of the Labor Department's "construction Review."

The article was written by economist E. Everett Ashley III, of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. It notes: "While the volume of housing developed specifically to meet the needs of the elderly is still very small, an upward trend in this field is apparent."

Ashley cites as "especially significant" departures "from the traditional old folks' homes and almshouses." Instead, he reports, efforts are being made to provide accommodations in non-institutional environments where people can spend their later years in dignity and comfort."

The key to the problem, Ashley says, is that the number of persons over 65 has been rising faster than the population as a whole. "Senior citizens now number more than 14 million, constituting one out of 12 persons. In another 20 years the number of older people will have risen to some 21 million, or approximately one of every 10 Americans," he points out.

To meet this growing need, Ashley says, the government has taken action under provisions of the Housing Act of 1956 which relate to the elderly. He lists the following:

At the end of 1957, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) had applications for mortgage insurance on 17 projects that will provide living quarters for between 2,200 and 2,300 elderly households. In addition, FHA now has more than 110 other projects in various pre-application stages. They would shelter between 16,000 and 18,000 elderly families.

The Public Housing Administration has signed subsidy contracts for public housing projects in which 2,447 dwelling units are earmarked for elderly occupants. Still other low-rent projects are in planning stages. In all, the total comes to 4,610 units in the public housing category. Forty-eight localities in 23 states and the District of Columbia are participating.

SOCIAL WORKERS OUTLINE PROGRAM

National Association Serves Notice It Will Seek Action on Several Key Issues

By EMMA HARRISON
Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, May 8 — Social workers, who have sometimes been noted for walking softly and carrying a big question mark on controversial social issues, today served notice that they were going to take a hand in solving as well as assuaging human ills.

Representatives of 22,000 of them, attending the second delegates assembly of the National Association of Social Workers, issued their first official statement of public policy here today.

With regard to unemployment, they asked for a single Federal system of unemployment insurance covering all workers, with interim provision of state progrms for all persons who work for wages.

On the subject of school integration they overrode the objections of some Southern members and said that all tax-supported schools should be equally available to all.

Stand on Youth Crime

Concerning juvenile delinquency, the delegates refused to recognize the symptom as the problem. They objected to a special policy section on juvenile delinquency, and included it in the general public welfare program because they found it arose through failure in the provision of services to children.

On aid to dependent children they left the way open for sponsoring of research to lead to a more liberalized system of disbursing funds to children, beond those fatherless ones. This would permit payments to children whose fathers were living, but who for some reason, including unemployment, could not support them.

The delegates approved a comprehensive national health program to assure full health care to all through principles of group payment and tax support. The delegates added the provision that it be compulsory if necessary.

The delegates also included full programs of social insurance to implement full employment economy, more comprehensive public welfare programs and housing supported by Federal, state and local governments to fill requirements of all people.

Unemployment and effects of the present recession on public and private welfare are subjects very much under discussion among the delegates attending this session. The association itself maintains an office in Washington to keep national legislation under surveyance and to lend it advice and support when indicated.

Rudolph T. Danstedt, director of the office, said in an interview that the association was in favor of an emergency extension on a Federal grant basis of unemployment benefits for an additonal sixteen months.

Legislation now under consideration that would provide for funds to states on a loan basis would require in most cases the convening of state legislatures and would not be fast enough to meet an emergency situation, he explained.

A grant program, he noted, could be put in effect immediately.

The association would like to see the extension of unemployment insurance because it does not feel that the unemployed should be subjected to a means test, he said.

The association is also concerned, he said, to find that no one in a leadership position in Washington has proposed anything for those unemployed workers who are not covered by unemployment insurance.

BIAS HELD ABSENT FOR THE DISABLED

Rusk Tells Chaplains That the Handicapped Do Not Give Voice to Prejudice

Race prejudice and class hatred are nonexistent among the severely handicapped, Dr. Howard A. Rusk said yesterday.

Dr. Rusk is director of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, and associate editor of The New York Times. He spoke at a luncheon of the New York Chapter of the Military Chaplains Association of the United States at the Masonic Club, 71 West Twenty-third Street.

Dr. Rusk told the chaplains that he had never heard "one single word of prejudice" voiced by patients at the institute in the eight years of its existence.

In that period, he said, 15,000 patients passed through the institute. None had private accommodations, he pointed out, and none worried if his neighbor was "black, white, poor, rich, Catholic, Protestant, Jew, a doctor of philosophy or a field hand."

Disability and crippling, Dr. Rusk observed, are a common denominator for human understanding, an antidote for prejudice and a "leavener" despite the bitterness of physical handicap.

He said the physically handicapped pleaded for no special advantages in boom or recession.

"We ask only for the privilege of training and work on equal terms with the normal person," he asserted.

Many handicapped persons have special sensitivities, Dr. Rusk pointed out. He cited lower accident rates among the disabled and noted that a blind worker in a photographic dark room could be more productive than a person with sight.

A blind person, he explained, requires no "break" for either cigarettes or a look at daylight and can tell water temperature through his fingertips.

Dr. Rusk urged a closer relationship between religion and medicine. He said the prime prerequisites for rehabilitation were "love, a home to go to, a job and faith."

Chaplain James McDonald, a commander in the Navy, was elected president of the association for the coming year.

FAMILY INCOME GAINS CUT BY TAX, INFLATION

'57 Average Sets New Peak at $6,130

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, April 20—Price inflation and the federal income tax collector have teamed up to take from the average American family three-fourths of its dollar income gains of the last three decades.

This was shown today in figures released by the commerce department, which estimated the average American household's pre-tax income at a record high of $6,130 for the year 1957.

At first blush this is a whopping jump of 162 per cent over the average family's per-tax intake of $2,340 in prosperous 1929. But the actual gain plummets to less than 40 per cent in terms of purchasing power after the income tax bite.

Inflation Steals Two-Thirds

With living costs nearly doubling since 1929, the 1957 family's apparent edge of 162 per cent was slashed to 56 per cent over the 1929 average in terms of "real" dollars, but still before taxes. Thus, inflation stole two-third of the gain.

Then came the income tax collector to take away another 10th of the gross gain. In 1929 most families didn't have to pay even a nickel in income tax, but total collections averaged about $33 per household. By 1957 the income tax bite $730 per household.

Family income in 1957 after the tax was taken out averaged $5,400. So the gain was

only 39 per cent over the average 1929 family's after tax income in terms of 1957's inflated dollars.

Other Taxes Mount

When multibillion dollar increases in other tax revenue apart from the federal income tax are considered, th apparent gains in family incomes were further reduced. Taxes that have zoomed since 1929 include federal excise levies on consumer goods such as cars, cigarets, and liquors, and state sales taxes and property taxes.

Today's report showed that America's 53.5 million families and single person households had pre-tax income totaling 328.2 billions last year. This was an increase of 77 per cent in total pre-tax income of 44.7 million households 10 years before.

But the average family's income in real dollars after income taxes went up only 17 per cent for the decade, the figures showed.

Many 2 Income Families

Average earnings of full time employes were $4,190 per worker last year. Family income was nearly 50 per cent higher than this because more than two-fifths of American families had more than one earner and because family income includes such items as dividend and rent receipts.

The 1947-57 decade brought a big shift in family intake to what the commerce department calls the middle income bracket. Last year 52 per cent of American families had pre-tax incomes of between $4,000 and $10,000, compared with 32 per cent in 1947. Fourteen per cent received less than $2,000, compared with 25 per cent in 1947.

Eleven per cent of the families received more than $10,000 last year against 5 per cent 10 years ago.

Living Costs Take 1st Dip In 2 Years

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Sept. 20 58

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (AP)—Living costs declined in August for the first time in two years—thanks to seasonally lower prices for meat, fruit and vegetables.

The government's index sank two-tenths of 1 per cent to a level of 123.7 per cent of the 1947-49 average. This is still 2.2 per cent higher than August last year.

Ewan Clague, the Labor Department's price expert, cautioned that no sustained decline is in sight. He said living costs now are about 6 per cent higher than when the two-year climb began.

Clague said the cost of living level may show another small drop when September figures are available, because of lower grocery store prices, but the general prospect is for the government index to stay pretty much where it is [illegible].

"There is no downward trend in sight," Clague reported. He said other upward cost factors are expected in the next few months to counter the cheaper fall food prices.

New fall clothing items usually reach store counters at higher prices and new model automobiles generally cost more. Transportation, housing, medical care and recreation are cost categories continuing to run steadily higher, as they did in August.

Food items as a group declined eight-tenths of 1 per cent in August. Almost everything except milk, eggs and other dairy items became more plentiful and thus less costly.

This is the time of the year food crops come to market in nearly every locality. Meats similarly are seasonably cheaper because of more animal marketing.

Spendable earnings of factory workers, representing their after tax wages, increased a bit between July and August. The single worker averaged $68.48 and the worker with three dependents $75.90.

The Labor Department said worker dollar purchasing power improved somewhat because of the slight dip in living costs but the August buying-power level still was lower than in any of the past three years.

owding Of Low-Income Families med For Race School Woes

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(NNPA)—Recial integration is only to blame for the outbreaks of violence and rowdyism occurring in the schools across the country.

ted article and in- U. S. News and Reports," an independent magazine published at a number of reasons teachers being attack- students fighting with knives, teenage corridors often extorting money children at white's and unrest in the schools of the picture as brought by the editors of the magazine a check with educators and schools in a number of to find out what is happen-

KANSAS CITY

At Central High School in City which Superintend- James A. Hazlett ed hot spot of City school system," are sometimes lined the blackboard and like suspects in a police when rumors of knife car- heard.

Bailey, the principal, calls "inspections" or "examina-

girl at Central was slugged nose broken by a boy because she would not get

her way. She is white. The colored. Central High is 60 colored.

WHITE GIRL'S KNIFE

Trumbow, a teacher High School last year, biggest knife I ever there was one a little last year.'

a white boy in a fight colored boy on the Durfee School grounds in De- down the colored boy, colored youths jumped kicked him about the body. He was taken to in serious condition.

violence is not wide- Chicago at this time student behavior problem worse. Fighting with knives takes place mostly in and around the predominantly colored schools in the downtown areas.

Teachers seldom are struck, although they are frequently threatened by both white and colored students.

OUT OF SCHOOL

A real problem in Chicago is the boys who no longer are in school who hang around the school grounds in gangs, extorting money in "protection" rackets and generally making trouble.

4. Police and school officials sense underlying tensions that could become explosive in the Los Angeles area although, at present, violence in the schools is no general problem.

Colored people are migrating to Los Angeles County at the rate of 1,700 a month. When the colored enrollment in one junior high school in southwest Los Angeles increased until it comprised nearly half the student body, violence suddenly broke out.

GANG FIGHTS

White and colored gangs formed and almost every day there were gang fights, assaults and disturbances.

About 5,000 children in Los Angeles County belong to an estimated 150 gangs. In one recent clash between gangs, a student bystander was shot and killed.

Most of the reports of student violence come from large cities in the North, where populations are mushrooming and where low income families—both white and colored—are crowded together.

5. In Elizabeth N. J., early in May, a physical education teacher was stabbed by a 12-year-old colored boy during class.

After the boy was held by the juvenile court, the teacher's wife received a number of telephone calls. The callers threatened to kill her and to blind the couple's year-old daughter if the boy was not released.

The incidents relating to colored students are only a minor part of the incidents reported in the article. There are a great many more concerching white students.

What has caused these ugly situations to arise in community after community?

Superintendent Hazlett of the Kansas City school says that integration of the schools, which came in 1955, is only partly to blame.

He says it is true there is more extortion and knife carrying among colored students, who comprise about 22 per cent of the enrollment. But all 14 high schools are having trouble, and only half of them have sizable colored enrollments.

In any event, Mr. Hazlett now is clamping down hard on offenders —issuing new orders and seeking new city and state legislation to make it easier to handle the incorrigibles.

Other reasons assigned for the violence include:

1. "There is a general feeling that the after-effects of World War II and the Korean War, along with the military draft, have had an upsetting effect on youngsters."

2. Ralph Wright, a member of the California Youth Authority, says that the pupils who would not remain in school if it were not for the compulsory attendance laws are responsible for 95 per cent of the disciplinary problems.

Heman Stark, director of the California Youth Authority, adds: "When a youngster can no longer compete in his class, he should be honorably excused from school at the age of 16 or over. Compulsory education laws in the state are causing a lot of our kids to get into trouble."

California compels school attendance until the child is 18 or graduates from high school.

3. The Kansas City report cites another cause for delinquency — overcrowding.

Immigration of low income families into the cities of the North and West has aggravated the crowded conditions. There is sometimes racial tension where neighborhoods and schools are changing from white to colored.

The colored student is often several years behind his white classmates in achievement level when he moves into a new city. This creates discord.

One colored educator in Detroit, William C. Loving, Jr., has this to say about the situation:

"You find both colored and white teachers trying to ignore this problem, saying it doesnt exist. It is a problem. It's there, and they've got to find a way to deal with it.

"You know, one trouble is that, if the colored child is a poor student, there is a tendency to let him get away with anything. When he misbehaves, they say, 'He's just a Negro. He's hopeless. Let him do what he wants and don't bother with him.'"

Urge Leaders To Go Slow In Foreclosing Home Owners

By HUGH L. MORRIS

WASHINGTON — (INS) — Government officials have urged mortgage lenders to go more than halfway with home buyers who are temporarily out of work and unable to meet monthly payments.

The appeals came as year-end reports showed 1957 foreclosures at 10.5 per cent above 1956, a sharper than usual rise, with an unofficial prediction of a 25 per cent increase in 1958.

In addition to the pleas, Rep. Albert Rains (D) Ala., has introduced a bill to help buyers under the FHA program to retain their homes in times of economic difficulties.

BEND BACKWARDS

Rains said that under the GI program the Government "bends over backwards" to prevent the veteran from losing his home.

He added: "the FHA-insured loan program is not properly equipped to give relief to the worthy home owner who loses his job or suffers reduced income through no fault of his own."

Under the Rains proposal, the FHA could issue debentures to a lender for the unpaid amount of a defaulted loan.

The Veterans Administration has just distributed a memorandum which said its guaranty regulations are "geared to encourage lenders to extend indulgence to worthy veterans."

ALERT SERVICING

J. Stanley Baughman, president of the Federal National Mortgage Association, has called for "more alert and careful servicing" of mortgages by personal calls in early stages of delinquencies.

He said "resourcefulness" by lenders will make it possible for buyers who are making "an earnest effort" to save their homes.

Baughman made the statement at a conference of the National Savings and Loan League, which represents the institutions now financing four out of every 10 homes purchases.

A League spokesman said the message was well received and added: "We're not in the home-owning business."

ARRANGEMENTS

He said mortgage holders can be expected to lend a sympathetic ear to the problems of the temporarily unemployed home buyer who comes in with a sincere desire to work out some arrangement.

In some cases, lenders reportedly have agreed to postponing the principal if the interest is paid and in other cases loans have been rewritten to extend them by lowering monthly payments.

Foreclosures last year totaled 34,204. They declined from a peak of 252,500 in 1933 to a low of 10,000 in 1945 before beginning an upswing which has continued uninterrupted.

With outstanding mortgage debt at 108 billion dollars, a Government economist pointed out that the foreclosure rate is at an all-time low in relation to the number of mortgaged homes. He predicted 40,000 foreclossures in 1958.

Be 'Folly'—Consumer Credit Shows Decline

Text of Eisenhower's message appears on Page 18.

By JOHN D. MORRIS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 1—President Eisenhower signed the $1,850,000,000 emergency housing bill today. The new law is the first major anti-recession housing bill passed by Congress.

The President denounced some features of the bill as "wholly inconsistent" with free enterprise concepts, however, and asked for corrective legislation.

Baruch Warns on Tax Cut

Other developments in the search for ways to combat the economic slump included these:

¶Bernard M. Baruch, financier and philanthropist, testified that it would be "folly" to reduce taxes. Instead, he told the Senate Finance Committee, taxes should be increased to meet the cost of any essential new spending programs.

¶The Federal Reserve Board reported another milestone of the recession. It disclosed that consumer installment credit had declined in February to reverse an upward trend that had prevailed for more than three years.

¶The Commerce Department reported that manufacturers had continued to reduce their inventories in February, as sales and new orders fell again.

¶The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations asked Congress to provide for at least thirty-nine weeks of unemployment compensation to all workers who had lost their jobs in the recession.

¶Senate and House conferees agreed on the final draft of a bill for a $1,850,000,000 speed-up of Federal-aid highway programs. A Senate provision to encourage state control of billboards on the new interstate highway system was retained.

1.5 Billion in Mortgages

The housing bill signed by President Eisenhower authorizes Federal purchases of $1,550,000,000 in new home mortgages and provides for additional Federal loans of $300,000,000 on veterans' housing.

The measure continues the veterans loan-guarantee and direct-loan programs for two years to July 25, 1960. It also permits an increase to 4¾ per cent in the maximum interest rate on mortgages insured by the Veterans Administration. The maximum rate on G. I. mortgages has been 4½ per cent.

Other provisions call for Federal purchases of V. A. mortgages at par, or face value, and for lower minimum down payments on homes financed by loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

President Eisenhower, in a message to Congress, objected particularly to the requirement for purchases of V. A. mortgages at par and to Congress' failure to raise the maximum interest rate to 5 per cent as he had proposed.

The effect, he asserted, is to substitute $1,000,000,000 of Federal financing for financing by private investors.

Drain on Treasury Seen

"This means," he said, "that a wholly unnecessary burden of up to $1,000,000,000 will be added at this time to the already heavy load upon the taxpayers of the country.

"Moreover, this same action on the interest rate and certain additional provisions of the act will, in the case of direct loans to veterans in rural areas, make it extremely difficult for the voluntary home mortgage credit program—again private financing—to become effective, thereby causing an additional and completely unnecessary drain on the Treasury."

President Eisenhower embraced other features of the bill as "consistent with Administration proposals." He said they would stimulate the economy through acceleration of construction.

Democratic sponsors have estimated that the bill should encourage construction of 200,000 new housing units and provide jobs for 500,000 persons this year.

The F. H. A. said the bill's provisions for lower down payments would go into effect immediately, applying to loan applications pending or in process, as well as new ones.

Senators Open Hearings

Mr. Baruch took the witness chair as the Finance Committee opened a new series of hearings on the country's financial condition.

Emphatic and articulate at 87, the white-haired financier sharply assailed "get-well-quick prescriptions" for economic recovery such as tax relief and pump priming.

"Inflation, gentlemen, is the most important economic fact of our time—the greatest simgle peril to our economic health," he asserted.

He argued that any action increasing the national debt would spur inflation and weaken the Government's credit, which he described as "strained."

"The credit of the United States Government," he added, "is the foundation upon which our solvency and security rest. We must prevent any further weakening of it by tax cuts, or deficit spending, or lifting the borrowing ceiling every time the debt presses against it."

In response to questions, Mr. Baruch said any new spending programs should be financed by higher taxes instead of more borrowing.

"From whom are you going to get the money?" he asked. "Who's going to buy these bonds if you continue to reduce the credit of the Government? People are going to look dubiously on the securities you are going to offer."

Inflation Spiral Feared

"Would it not start another spiral of inflation?" asked the committee chairman, Senator Harry F. Byrd, Democrat of Virginia.

"I think it would start a spiral of destruction," was the reply.

In his prepared statement, Mr. Baruch said price reductions could provide the "best stimulant to our economy."

"It would be an inspiring and salutary thing," he suggested, "if the leaders of our great labor unions and businesses would jointly pledge to the President that for one year there will be no increase in wages or prices and that profit margins would at least be frozen."

He also urged "individual self-restraint in the area of private credit." He called its "excessive growth" a major factor in the present difficulty and "one of the weak links in our economic chain."

"I have often been shocked," he remarked, "by the lengths to which banks, merchants and advertisers go to press credit upon the consumers with which to buy things they can be persuaded to want, but do no need."

The A. F. L.-C. I. O. proposal on unemployment compensation was made at a hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee. The committee is considering various bills to supplement the income of jobless workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

The labor organizations called on Congress to put a thirty-nine-week "floor" on the duration of benefits, which now range from five to thirty weeks under various state laws. As an "emergency" measure, it proposed the same benefits for workers not covered by the Federal-state unemployment insurance program.

The United States Chamber of Commerce told the committee that most states already had ample funds to meet unemployment compensation requirements without emergency help from the Federal Government.

Delay Is Approved

Senate Democratic leaders, meanwhile, were frustrated at least temporarily in efforts to steer another anti-recession bill to passage tonight. The measure would make available $1,000,000,000 in Federal loans for community public works projects.

The Senate Republican leader, William F. Knowland of California, moved to delay consideration of the bill until the end of the Congressional Easter recess April 14.

The acting Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, countered with a motion to kill the Knowland proposal but lost by a vote of 41 to 36.

The development set off a

PRESIDENT SIGNS 1.8 BILLION BILL FOR NEW HOUSING

But He Hits Some Features as 'Inconsistent' With Free Enterprise Idea

BARUCH FEARS TAX CUT

Tells Senate Unit It Would

sharp inter-party squabble that continued into a night session. The Senate Democratic leader, Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, was out of town.

Republicans objected to what they called the "undue haste" to put through a measure of doubtful merit. Senator Styles Bridges, Republican of New Hampshire, reported that the proposed delay had the backing of President Eisenhower.

He said Republican Congressional leaders had discussed it with the President at today's White House meeting. At a subsequent party conference, Senate Republicans voted 22-4 to seek the postponement.

The pending bill is a watered-down version of a measure that the Administration had opposed in its original form. The author is Senator J. William Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas.

EISENHOWER SIGNS BILL TO AID HOUSING

Highway Measure Gains; Works Debate Opens

By J. W. DAVIS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower signed the $1,850,000,000 housing bill Tuesday, the highway construction bill got past an important hurdle and the Senate began debate on a billion-dollar public works bill.

The highway bill was agreed on by Senate-House conferees in a form retaining a Senate provision for control of billboards on the interstate network of roads. The measure is counted on to provide 88,000 new jobs this year. It is designed to pour nearly an additional two billion dollars in federal-state funds into roadbuilding this year.

The three major actions on the anti-recession front came, by coincidence, on a day that elder statesman Bernard Baruch pleaded against red-ink financing and denounced talk of tax reduction as folly.

Eisenhower mixed approbation and criticism in a message to Congress saying he was signing the housing bill, the first major measure of this congressional session directed against the economic slump.

NEW FUNDS AVAILABLE

The President indicated, without saying it in so many words, that he thought the bill's provision for a 4¾ per cent interest rate on GI mortgages was too low. He said the rate should be sufficiently flexible to attract private capital.

At the same time, he said some of its provisions will promote a higher level of economic activity.

The bill makes new funds available for mortgages, lowers down payments on some government - insured mortgages and extends the home loan program another two years.

Senate debate on the public works bill, which would set up loans to muncipalities all over the country, opened over Republican objections.

Republican senators voted 22-4 in favor of delaying consideration until after the 10-day congressional recess that begins Thursday. Sen. Bridges (R-NH) said the White House was opposed to rushing the bill through, that the administration was concerned about its effect on the national debt limit.

HOPES FOR PROMPT VOTE

Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont), acting Democratic leader, conceded the Republicans' argument for taking things slower had a good deal of merit. But he added he would be disappointed if the Senate didn't reach a vote on it Wednesday.

One of Eisenhower's proposals won quick approval from the Senate Appropriations Committee, one day after the House voted for it.

This would direct federal agencies to place orders quickly for up to 840 million dollars worth of supplies and equipment they otherwise might not buy for months to come.

In still another development, the Federal Reserve Board reported that total consumer installment credit dropped by 435 million dollars in February.

This was taken to mean that many families paid off old debts faster than they took on new ones during the month.

Baruch, 87-year-old financier-philanthropist who is often listened to in Washington—but not always heeded, by any means—made his request to the Senate Finance Committee.

SEES INFLATION PERIL

Inflation is the most important fact of the time, he declared, the single greatest peril to the economic health.

And inflation would feed on just such things as cutting taxes and heavy government spending, he stressed.

In other economic developments:

1. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce opposed and the AFL-CIO supported — proposals for emergency help from the federal government so that unemployment compensation benefits could be paid for additional weeks to people out of work. Their stands were outlined to the House Ways and Means Committee.

2. **The House approved on voice vote the final form of a bill to authorize future construction of $1 billion dollars worth of water projects. The bill was a compromise of slightly different versions previously passed by both House and Senate. The Senate is expected to act on the compromise quickly. Actual money for the projects would have to be appropriated later.**

3. The Commerce Department reported that manufacturers' sales declined in February to a point 3 per cent below January and 12 per cent below February 1957. The backlog of unfilled orders dropped to 25 per cent below a year ago.

POST OFFICE PROGRAM

4. The Post Office Department announced a 56-million-dollar program of buying trucks and other vehicles, to be carried out by the end of this year. It will expand by another 32 million if pending legislation is enacted.

MORE

The billion-dollar public works bill before the Senate moved fast. The Banking Committee approved it only Monday, and it was taken up immediately by the Democratic leadership which schedules the course of legislation in the Senate.

Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark) is the author of the bill, which was trimmed from a two-billion-dollar total by the committee, which he heads.

The bill would authorize loans to cities and towns for such things as construction and repair of streets, sidewalks, bridges, public buildings, parking lots, parks, hospitals, sewage facilities and garbage disposal plants.

The committee set the maximum interest rate at 3½ per cent. Present rates on a smaller program run as high as 4½ per cent.

Baruch told the Finance Committee that Congress, rather than cutting taxes, should raise them enough to cover any increased spending programs.

TAX CUTS HELD ERROR

In response to Sen. Byrd (D-Va), Baruch said the two big tax cuts of 1948 and 1954 should never have been voted.

"We should not have cut taxes until we got the government debt manageable and until we got peace," he said.

Of the present situation, Baruch summed up: "In the face of a tremendous national debt and expenditure, it is folly to talk of tax reductions. To reduce revenues before our defenses are secure, and our debt manageable, is uneconomic and immoral."

Baruch said relieving the plight of the unemployed should be primarily a local responsibility.

Sen. Anderson (D-NM) asked: "The man who is unemployed can't eat a balanced budget, can he?"

Baruch retorted: "A tax cut wouldn't do him any good, either."

Text of President's Housing Message

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP)—Following is the text of the message President Eisenhower sent to Congress today after signing the housing bill:

To the Congress of the United States:

I have today approved S. 3418, an act "to stimulate residential construction."

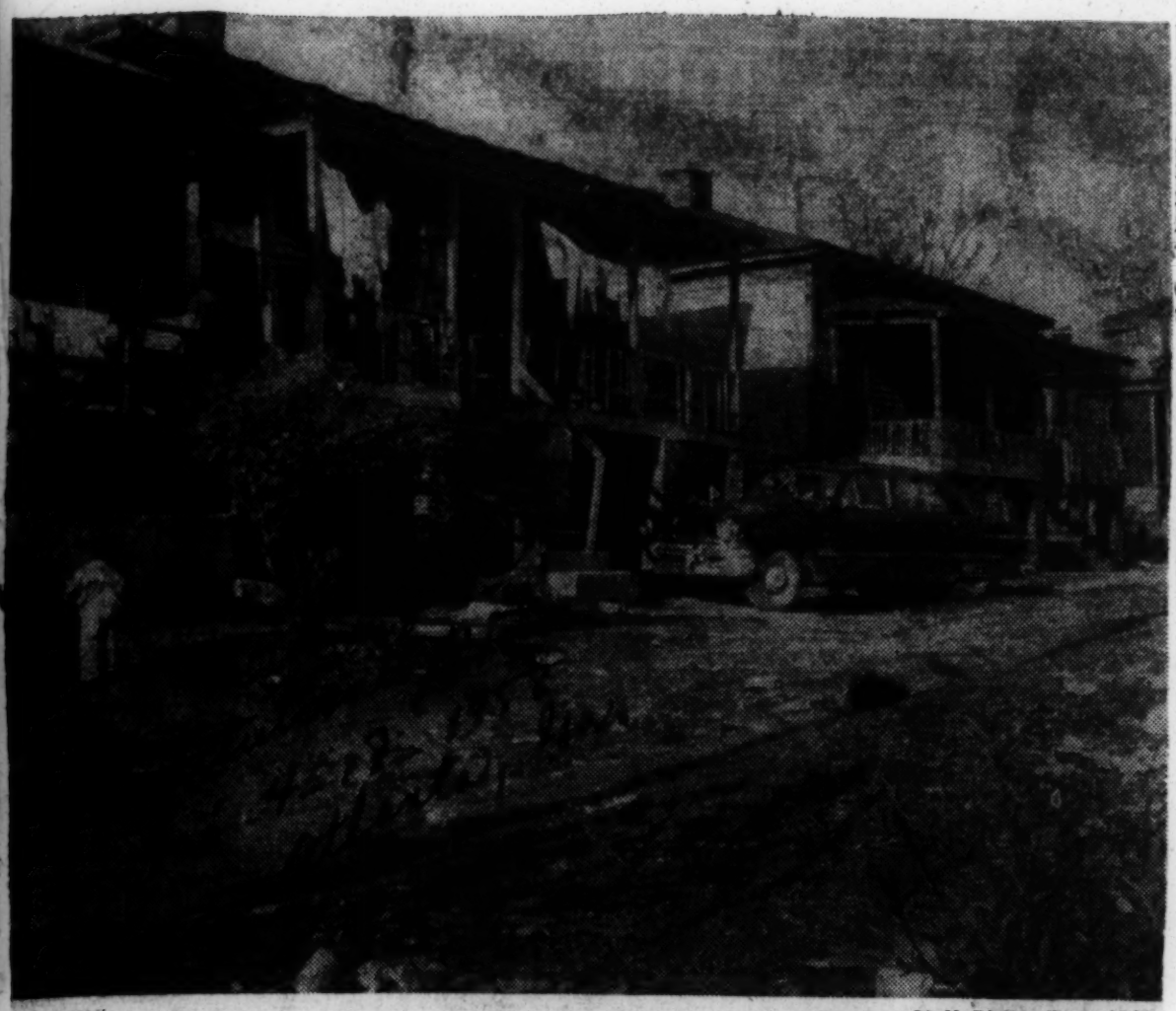
Several of its provisions will promote a higher level of economic activity through acceleration of housing construction. The temporary extension of the World War II veterans' loan guaranty program, the more liberal terms of F. H. A. [Federal Housing Administration] insured mortgages, the repeal of the unworkable discount controls on guaranteed and insured mortgages, the limited authority to adjust interest rates on military housing mortgages to market conditions, and the additional authority for mortgage purchases under the special assistance program of the Federal National Mortgage Association pursuant to my specific designation, are timely additions to our present authorities and are consistent with Administration proposals. They can be used at once to supplement forward steps already taken to stimulate construction.

However, the legislation ignores the responsibility and ability of private enterprise to function without imposing a direct burden on the Federal purse. It has been the fixed policy of this Administration, and should be the consistent purpose of the Federal Government, to seek in every way to encourage private capital and private investors to finance in competitive markets the myriad activities in our economy, including housing construction. This legislation contains provisions that are wholly inconsistent with that policy and with the philosophy of the free enterprise system that has made this nation strong. By not permitting the interest rate on V. A. [Veterans Administration] guaranteed home mortgages to be fully adjusted to actual market conditions, and by requiring purchases of these mortgages at par by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the legislation provides in effect for substituting $1,000,000,000 of Federal financing for financing by private investors.

This means that a wholly unnecessarp burden of up to $1,000,000,000 will be added at this time to the already heavy load upon the taxpayers of the country. Moreover, this same action on the interest rate and certain additional provisions of the act will in the case of direct loans to veterans in rural areas, make it extremely difficult for the voluntary home mortgage credit program—again private financing—to become effective, thereby causing an additional, and completely unnecessary, drain on the Treasury of the United States.

The American people expect their Government to act in every proper way to foster the resurgence of the economy. But they also expect their Government to preserve the integrity of principles and programs that have served us well. In acting for today we should not forget tomorrow. This is the plain duty of us all.

I again call upon the Congress promptly to enact legislation providing interest rates for V. A. guaranteed and direct loans sufficiently flexible to assure private participation, and eliminating the par purchase requirements on Government mortgage purchases, so that the taxpayers will not be called upon to do what private investors should, can, and will do—so that in this field our free enterprise system may have the fullest opportunity to work.



Staff Photo—Tom Aldre

NOT MUCH ROOM FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY IN AREAS LIKE THIS

Space and Facilities for Recreation Are Objectives of Urban Renewal

Neglect, Slum Spread Would Cost City More Than Renewal Price

By GENE BRITTON

One way or another, Atlanta is going to have to pick up the tab for years of neglect in letting many of its neighborhoods fall into slum conditions.

Experts agree that there are but two ways the bill may be paid.

The first, and by far the most expensive way, is for the city to sit back and watch the slums spread like a malignancy. As more and more dwelling places fall into the substandard class, the drain on city services will increase.

There will be more crime. The police department already is exerting much of its force in the slum neighborhoods. Slums being firetraps in most instances, the fire department's work load and expenses will increase.

More social workers will be demanded. Taxpayers will find themselves paying for more and more charity cases at Grady Hospital.

Before the nose dive ends in a leveling off, the city has become second, third, fourth rate. All its citizens are the losers.

Professional planners from across the country have warned that this pattern is not exaggerated, that it can and does happen.

Fortunately, there is an alternative.

If Atlanta can find the solutions to problems that are swarming over its slum clearance planners like locusts, and without more waste of time swing into action with its urban renewal program, the city can continue to be a leader among cities.

Urban renewal has a price, too. They city will have to pay one third of the cost involved in acquiring slum properties and reselling them to private developers. Uncle Sam foots the bill for the rest.

The federal government has set aside $12,000,000 for its part in Atlanta's program. It will pay through a capital grant the bulk of the project's net cost—the difference between the return received from land disposition and the total cost of carrying out the project.

If Atlanta takes advantage of the entire amount, it will eventually have to put up $6,000,000 as its share of an $18,000,000 program. Atlanta voters have already approved a bond issue of $1,500,00 for the initial part of the city's share. The city will acquire the blighted land ares. Some of the money, but not all of it, spent for acquisition will be returned to city coffers. Two thirds of the loss the city suffers will be borne by Uncle Sam.

Atlanta will get a good return on its money in urban renewal.

Aside from the obvious human benefits of getting thousands of its citizens out of degrading slums, there are numerous economic advantages to be gained, urban renewal supporters agree.

The city can enrich itself from taxes on the improved buildings for the greater good of all its citizens.

144 ACRES

For example, there is a 144-acre tract of land in the Ben Hill area which has only a few houses on it. It has been considered for relocation houses for persons now living in slums. In 1957, the city collected $300.80 in taxes on the property. According to computations from the city's urban renewal department, if the area had been developed with relocation houses at a rate of three units an acre, the net gain in taxes would have been $44,205.

So far, political pressure has kept relocation houses out of that area.

The problems are staggering. Those seriously concerned with Atlanta's present and future insist that they must be worked out if Atlanta is to get by with paying its debt to history the easier of the two ways. The solutions must come quickly. Much more delay will kill the entire program.

ACCENTUATED PROBLEM

Relocation—which is the most serious problem involved in urban renewal—has been accentuated in its seriousness by lack of public understanding and support.

New Haven, Conn., is a city that has already licked many of the problems that beset Atlanta, as detailed in this series last Sunday and in the current issue of The Saturday Evening Post. New Haven's Mayor Richard C. Lee put much of the responsibility for selling the program to the public on the shoulders of the mayor.

But the mayor can't do it all, he warned. The mayor must be backed by his department heads, the board of aldermen and especially by the public.

While the New Haven project was being conceived, Mayor Lee appointed a Citizens Action Committee to help run interference for him while he carried the ball. The group has been credited with much of the success in putting the program across in New Haven.

Without such a group promoting urban renewal, the program is virtually killed before it starts, the New Haveners testified.

HEADS COMMITTEE

Atlanta architect Cecil A. Alexander heads Atlanta's Citizens Advisory Committee. He and his group were appointed by Mayor Hartsfield—but not until January of this year.

However sincere and hardworking this group may be, it suffers from a belated start. Chairman Alexander and his group are charged with the terrific task of selling a program despised by many politicians, selfish interest groups, race baiters and neighborhood snobs.

They have no real authority. They are strictly advisors. The committee operates completely without funds. Evidence of Alexander's sincere concern over his job was the fact that he attended an urban renewal conference at New Haven at his own expense.

There are only nine members of the committee—six whites and three Negroes—who are charged with an entire community responsibility of coordinating, selling and playing go-between.

COMMON CAUSE

In New Haven, the counterpart of Alexander's committee represents almost all aspects of community life. Church groups, business, industrial and professional groups, organized labor, social workers and educators are represented. Nobody in New Haven feels left out. Everybody has been drawn into a common fight.

Towns and cities much closer to Atlanta than New Haven in both distance and common problems have found it much easier to find answers through larger, truly representative citizens' committees, according to Col. Malcolm Jones, head of the city's urban renewal department.

Chattanooga, Tenn., has more than 70 members on its advisory group, he said, and Valdosta has 92.

Somehow Atlanta's nine-member committee, frequently criticized as not being representative of the entire community, must find the compromises needed to get all of Atlanta behind slum clearance.

NO ENCROACHMENT

They must assure whites that relocation will not mean an encroachment against segregation and other traditions. They must assure Negroes that they will not be left out of the planning and that they will benefit along with all other segments of the community.

The Atlanta Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is on record supporting urban renewal. However, it took steps several days ago to get the federal government to withhold approval of Atlanta's urban renewal program. The NAACP said it felt the worse slums in the city were not included.

Mayor Hartsfield lashed back at J. H. Calhoun, local NAACP president, that the move "is nothing more than an arrogant effort to break up that which they cannot control."

Hamilton Douglas, chairman of the aldermanic board's urban renewal committee, said this week he thinks the approved urban re-

newal areas are representative of some of the worst slums in the city.

AREAS STUDIED

Of course, they are not all the slums. Whether or not Atlanta is able to expand its slum clearance undertaking to eliminate all existing slums will depend on what it is able to do with what it has already proposed.

In addition to the three areas for which federal approval has been received, two others (the Rockdale and Thomasville sections of Atlanta) are being studied for approval.

Slum clearance is a continuing thing. If urban renewal ever sees the light of day in Atlanta, there can be hope that more areas will eventually be brought into the plan.

Since Atlanta will have to face its debt, good economics points to urban renewal as the best way by far.

Before it could be eligible for federal backing in pushing its urban renewal program through, the city had to assure Washington that it was capable of caring for thousands of people who would be removed from the hovels they called home.

On paper the city has a good plan.

But once it was made public, the plan began to be heaped with vehement objections from many quarters. Some of the opposition appears to be based on logical thinking. Some of it is obviously the result of wild prejudice and selfishness.

Federal authorities have warned that the prime requisite for Atlanta's being able to carry the program and reap its benefits is full-scale community backing. Unless Atlanta pulls together, urban renewal will likely flounder and go under.

But relocation has become the main obstacle to the entire slum clearance program. Diverse opinions from numerous factions could scuttle the whole project.

MUCH UNEASINESS

Relocation is responsible for almost all the uneasiness among city politicians over urban renewal.

Yet, like urban renewal itself, relocation has a deceptively simple, uncomplicated outward appearance.

The city has proposed the construction of 5,500 one - family houses under Section 221 of the National Housing Act. Private industry, under the plan, would purchase tracts of land, build the houses and resell them.

Persons displaced by the urban renewal program, or any other governmental action, such as expressway construction would have priority on buying the houses under the law. If they waived their priority or failed to negotiate within 60 days, the houses could be sold to anyone else under the same terms.

FHA LOAN

The terms call for a maximum cost of $9,000 ($10,000 in high-cost areas) for the dwellings. The mortgage loan may be 100 per cent FHA approved over a 40-year period.

The "221" houses may be built anywhere within the city, not necessarily back in the cleared slum areas. That's the source of most of the difficulty.

Home owners in established moderate neighborhoods look down their noses at "those people from the slums" and shudder at the prospect of having several families of ex-slum dwellers living next door or across the street.

Col. Malcolm Jones, the city's urban renewal director, however, estimates that ex-slum dwellers eventually will find their way into only one of every five "221" homes built.

Also, many urban renewal promoters are hopeful of establishing a program of rehabilitation for the displaced to help them in adjusting to their cleaner, better environment. It has been suggested that some form of "strong encouragment" be given them to keep the new homes in good repair.

The program has found political opposition to a great extent because it would mean the relocating of Negroes in areas where they previously have not lived. Yet, planners have promised to maintain segregation lines within the city, regardless.

Supporters of the urban renewal plan feel that the program is so vital—almost necessary if the city is to be saved from a gradual decline into total urban decay—that the differences over relocation must be resolved at all cost.

2 MAJOR PLANS

Two major plans for doing away with the objections have evolved:

1. Community leaders should be taken to Columbus, Birmingham and other cities where relocation programs have been successful. The hope is that they could see for themselves that the program really works and that some of Atlanta's misgivings have been overplayed.

2. A model "221" house should be constructed in Atlanta to demonstrate to the public exactly what sort of structures would be dotting the city as a replacement for the present firetraps, shanties and eyesores.

The Atlanta Board of Aldermen has accepted the second suggestion. A full-sized model "221" house will be built, probably on Ellis street between Piedmont and Butler.

STRONG OBJECTIONS

Urban Renewal Director Jones said, however, that even the model home plan is receiving strong, almost hysterical objections from some quarters.

Col. Jones said he has been threatened with having a court action brought in an attempt to halt the entire urban renewal program if the city pursues its plans for the model house.

One caller told Col. Jones that if the house were built and if the city attempted to put a fence around it, an effort would be made to get an injunction against the fence on the grounds of misuse of city funds.

OTHER FORMS

There are, of course, alternatives to "221" houses. Many of the displaced persons, in all probability, will not be interested in the houses and there are other forms of housing available.

Public housing is one solution. The city's Housing Authority operates 7,494 public housing units under federal regulations. They are available only to low-income families and there is a sufficient turnover to provide for some of the families displaced by urban renewal.

But the supply is not inexhaustable and the Housing Authority says it will not build any more unless requested to do so by the city.

Atlanta's big real estate interests are openly opposed to public housing.

"The entire real estate fraternity — or at least its better elements — is for urban renewal and the '221' program, with one minor reservation," one leading Atlanta realtor said. "that being that the program be handled with no public housing overtones. It is understood that Urban Renewal and '221' are alternatives, not a sneaky way of getting into, socialized public housing."

Homes built under the "221" program are not the only type private housing available to the displaced persons. For low income slum dwellers, however, purchase costs and finance terms may well be out of reach. As for rentals, there already has been a great deal of concern over the possibility of slum dwellers moving into moderate priced "marginal" areas, vastly overcrowding them and causing general depreciation.

The other major alternative is to maintain the status quo. Let the slum dwellers stay in the slums. Retain the atmosphere condusive to crime and disease in a course-of-least-resistance attitude.

Several sincere civic and government leaders in Atlanta are determined to reject the last alternative. If they can get the support they need from the mayor, the aldermen and the public, they promise a solution to the problems will be worked out.

Staff Photo—Tom Aldred

DECENT HOMES MUST BE FOUND FOR THESE AND THOUSANDS MORE

Negro Children Play in Shadows of Slums That Can Be Eliminated

ATLANTA WOMEN'S ... went to the Carver ... job well done in the city's clean ... Homes, competing ... during the ... with its second citation in ... plaque was also award- ... Homes for an outstand- ing job. Barbara Muckles (seated), a member of the Carver Homes "Litterbugs," holds the plaque; while Mrs. Annie Ruth Hill, Carver Homes manager; M. B. Satterfield, director of Housing Authority; Mrs. Maymie Jones, president of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Mrs. Lillie Thomas, vice-president of the Tennants Association, look on.—(Perry's Photo)

...zens Group Backs ...ing Plan; Mayor ...s At Opponents

... the "221" housing program in th... ... come in the form of a resolution from the Cit... Committee. The action followed growing re... effort will be made Monday to temporarily bloc... housing throughout Atlanta.

delaying action."

MAYOR HITS OPPONENTS

Mayor William B. Hartsfield lashed out Thursday against opponents of urban renewal claiming "sabotage" and an attempt to "terrorize" members of the Aldermanic Board.

Urban renewal Director Malcom Jones challenged that any such move would "be the worst blow dealt urban renewal and could kill the whole program."

Mayor Hartsfield has vowed to veto any such bill "without a moment's hesitation."

The controversial "221" housing program is the means by which the city hoped to rehouse many families moved out of urban renewal areas and from the expressway course. It provides a 40-year loan with no down payment for houses costing up to $10,000.

Support of the mayor's position regarding "221" housing has come from City Attorney Jack Savage. Atty. Savage told the mayor that any attempt to stop the program is unconstitutional.

He added:

"I don't think they could do that even in Russia."

Mr. Savage said that if the resolution is passed and approved (even over the mayor's veto) it would be binding on the city inspector not to issue the permits for the "221" housing until the matter had gone through the courts.

PROPOSAL ASSAILED

The mayor in assailing the proposal noted that any effort to bar "221" housing "amounts to a brazen statement that the poor man in Atlanta, white or colored, is not entitled to a home."

Mr. Hartsfield added: "I know of no civilized community in America whose public officials have told its people that no one can build his home unless he spends more than $10,000."

In an added salvo at critics of the program, the mayor said, "Certain synthetic organizations have lately been formed and alleged civic leaders have been giving their whole time to the campaign of sabotage and efforts to terrorize the Board of Aldermen."

Three Negroes are on the Citizens Advisory Board which is backing the "221" housing program. They are E. L. Simon, Q. V. Williamson and Dr. Harry Richardson. Other members are Cecil Alexander, chairman; Mrs. John S. Knox, Gordon Jones, Mrs. Maymie Jones, Ivan Allen, Jr., and James Moore.

The Citizens Advisory Board of which Cecil Alexander is chairman, adopted a resolution which stated "It is our feeling that any effort to restrain the normal procedures of zoning and of the issuance of building permits for "221" housing will not only greatly handicap the Urban Renewal Program, but might even destroy the whole program."

The resolutions addressed to the mayor and board of aldermen further urged "rejection of this (a measure introduced by Alderman Douglas Wood calls for no more "221" houses in the Fourth Ward until a complete study of housing needs can be completed) resolution," but which also opposed "most vigorously any further attempts to retard the overall Urban Renewal Program by the passage of such

Correction

Wood Motion To Stop Local '221' Housing Defeated

Alderman Douglas Wood was defeated Monday in his attempt to delay construction of "221" housing under Atlanta's urban renewal program. The heading to an article in Tuesday morning's World had inadvertently said that the Atlanta Board of Aldermen had approved a motion by Alderman Wood on "221" housing.

It was just the reverse, as the Board of Aldermen voted 11 to 1, giving the city a vote of confidence in the urban renewal program. The board followed the recommendation of its Urban Renewal Committee in turning down Wood's resolution.

Through its action, the aldermanic board voted to continue issuing "221" building permits, through which the city hopes that adequate housing will become available for displaced homeowners.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEL 171

ALDERMEN APPROVE MOTION BY DOUGLAS WOOD ON 221 HOUSING

The Atlanta Board of Aldermen Monday refused to hold up issuance of building permits for "221" homes by a surprise vote of 11 to 1, thereby giving the city a vote of confidence in its urban renewal program.

The only alderman voting for the delay in constructing "221" houses was Douglas Wood who submitted the resolution. Wood asked the delay until completion of a pending relocation survey. The city now has apparent clear sailing for meeting the December 15 deadline in shaping up its relocation plans.

PROPOSAL ILLEGAL

The board followed the recommendation of its Urban Renewal Committee in turning down the resolution offered by the Fourth Ward alderman. Ald. Jesse Draper, acting chairman of the committee in the absence of Hamilton Douglas, Jr., said the committee was unanimously against Wood's proposal and moved that the board accept the committee's adverse report. He also said the city attorney has ruled the proposal illegal.

When a substitute motion by Ald. Wood was lost for lack of a second, the board allowed him to make a statement before the vote was taken on Draper's motion.

Wood said he was in favor of urban renewal but that it should not be exempt from examination. He explained his resolution was not aimed at killing urban renewal, but at delaying the construction of "221" houses in the Fourth Ward until the completion of a survey which he said he believed would show that instead of needing 5,500 "221" houses, "we'll need only between 500 and 1,000."

NO DEMAND FOR 221

He pointed out that less than 20 percent of the persons to be displaced by urban renewal have purchased these houses. There is no great demand for "221" houses, Ald. Wood said.

He also stated that "221" is not the only low-cost, long-term housing available. He said that the Federal Housing Administration's 203 program also provides for such housing, and there is very little difference between the two.

The board voted to continue issuing "221" building permits following his talk.

The vote relieved much pressure from the city which is fighting against the calendar to find a suitable relocation program by December 15 and qualify for more than $12 million in federal funds earmarked for urban renewal.

Hartsfield Blasts NAACP Move to Halt Slum Plans

Mayor Vows Project Will Go Forward

Mayor Hartsfield Monday declared the Atlanta NAACP's attempt to block the city's urban renewal program "is nothing but an arrogant effort to break up that which they cannot control."

Atlanta's mammoth slum clearance plans "will go forward," the

Text of Hartsfield statement. Page 7.

mayor pledged, "unless the local president of the NAACP (J. H. Calhoun) has more power in Washington than in Atlanta."

"It is ironic that an effort to improve Atlanta and give Negroes a better place to live," Hartsfield said, "should be attacked by an organization pretending to work in their interests."

WANT OKAY HELD UP

The federal government has been asked by the executive committee of the Atlanta NAACP to withhold approval of the city's urban renewal program because "the worst slums" would be "left untouched."

A resolution requesting that the multimillion-dollar program be delayed has been dispatched to all federal agencies here and in Washington, said V. W. Hodges, chairman of the Atlanta NAACP's executive committee.

Other objections to the program listed in the resolution included contentions that:

(1) "No consideration is being given to the sociological and economic factors attendant upon the segregated pattern of housing in Atlanta, which will make it impossible for some homemakers and businessmen to relocate in comfortable homes and on satisfactory business sites."

CITES "WORST SLUMS"

(2) "Political consideration and racial prejudice are hampering relocation phases of the urban renewal program. We feel it is incumbent upon the City of Atlanta officials to remedy this situation before any plans are approved."

The resolution also contended that "two sections of the city, admittedly comprising the worst slums, are left untouched, with no assurance as to when they will be considered for renewal."

The two sections listed as "the worst slums" are the Simpson street-Hunter street-Northside drive area, often referred to as "Lightning" or "Vine City," and section bordering the Butler street ("Buttermilk Bottom") area.

Col. Malcolm Jones, director of the city's urban renewal office, said, "The resolution has been taken under advisement by my staff."

Cecil Alexander, chairman of a biracial citizens committee on urban renewal, said the resolution will be brought to the attention of his organization at a meeting at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in City Hall.

Alexander reiterated what he said he had been told by federal authorities: that any last-minute changes in the urban renewal program could delay its approval and place it in danger of being lost.

The resolution came in the wake of objections to the program registered by Negro "locality committees," which asserted that the slum clearance plan was being conducted on a segregated basis and that Negroes were not being consulted on the planning.

SUPPORT REPORT

"We wholeheartedly support the report of the locality committees," declared Calhoun.

The resolution called on "all agencies concerned with Atlanta's slum clearance program and urban renewal to deny approval until solutions to the problems . . . are devised and established."

The federal government, which has reserved $12,000,000 to aid the city's urban renewal, has been asked to approve boundaries on two or three slum-clearance projects: the "Buttermilk Bottom" area and the University Center section.

SEE $18 MILLION LOSS

A third project—the Washington-Rawson street area—is currently being readied for federal officials' consideration.

An estimated loss of $18,000,000 is anticipated in buying and reselling land under the present urban renewal program, which includes the leveling or repairing of 707 acres of slums.

Here's Mayor's Statement on NAACP's Stand

Mayor Hartsfield Monday afternoon issued this statement on the NAACP resolutions:

"This widely publicized statement of the NAACP opposing our urban renewal program is nothing but an arrogant effort to break up that which they cannot control.

"The Atlanta urban renewal program has been carefully worked out by competent planners. Many hearings have been held, at which Negro citizens have been fully consulted. They are also represented on the citizens' committee for urban renewal. The plans contemplate controlled rehousing of thousands of Negroes who will be displaced, not just through redevelopment, but also by Expressway and other construction.

"It is ironic that an effort to improve Atlanta and give Negroes a better place to live should be attacked by an organization pretending to work in their interests.

"Time is now an all-important factor, and our plans will go forward unless the local president of the NAACP has more power in Washington than in Atlanta."

Citizens' Housing Group Backs Fairplay Program

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES
(World Managing Editor)

The position of the Over-all Citizens Committee of Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal remains the same and it is still standing by its March statement, calling for fairplay in Atlanta's multi-million-dollar development, it was learned from a reliable source Tuesday. It was also stated that progress was being made in negotiations to iron out objectives to first drafts of Atlanta's proposed program.

The committee, headed by Bishop W. R. Wilkes, voted to make no statement to the press, following a closed meeting.

The meeting had been called in the wake of a controversy over the developing program, highlighted by a verbal blast by Mayor William B. Hartsfield against the Atlanta NAACP and its president, John Calhoun. The attack centered around a press released resolution from the Atlanta branch, adopted several weeks ago, but given to newspapers and federal agencies last week. The NAACP resolution called upon "all agencies concerned with Atlanta's slum clearance program and urban renewal to deny approval until solutions to the problems ... are devised and established."

Mr. Hartsfield, unavailable for further comment Tuesday, had said the resolution was an attempt to stop the urban renewal-redevelopment program. Mr. Calhoun denied any blanket attempt to stop the slum clearance program, pointing out that the resolution was an attempt to protect the rights of the individual in Atlanta's redevelopment.

The Over-all Citizens Committee declared in its statement prepared and distributed last month:

FOR

1. "We are for Urban Renewal in the city of Atlanta provided it is administered and pursued according to the spirit and intent of the Congressional Act (The Housing Act of 1949 as amended).

2. "We are for the elimination of substandard conditions caused by the overcrowding of slum and blighted areas provided reasonable and acceptable relocation can be achieved.

3. "We are for and will support actions designed to increase residential land areas that will be available for minority group occupancy within the city limits of Atlanta.

4. "We strongly urge that Negroes be employed in all phases of the urban renewal development program. (Trained, eligible personnel can be found in Atlanta.)

AGAINST

1. "We are against any attempt to use the facilities of the urban renewal program in an effort to promote and maintain segregation.

2. "We are concerned about the re-use of cleared land to the extent that we will oppose any re-use that will further restrict the Negro population of Atlanta or in anywise cause them to be priced out of the re-use market.

3. "We are opposed to the promotion on the part of any one large concentrations of 221 housing in any one given section of the city. (Unless properly conceived and controlled, such activity could result in the creation of more ghettos).

4. "We are against the city of Atlanta denying the building of houses under the 221 program of FHA on land that has been approved by FHA and is already properly zoned by the city of Atlanta.

Citizens' mass meetings at Mt. Zion, West Hunter and Warren Methodist Churches approved the committees "Bill of Particulars."

Atlanta To Get Award For Residential Improvement

NEW YORK — Three Southern cities were named today as winners of Community Home Achievement Awards for outstanding progress in the improvement of homes and residential areas. These cities are Atlanta, Ga.; Anniston, Ala., and Columbia, S. C. The Southern cities are among nine communities selected for honors in a national competition sponsored by Look Magazine.

The winners are cited for noteworthy citizen effort and accomplishment in putting through their improvement programs. All nine awards are of equal rank. Brief summaries of the activities of the award-winning cities will appear in the April 29 issue of Look, on the newsstands April 15.

Atlanta is honored for the strides the city has made since the passage in 1955, of laws permitting Urban Renewal in Georgia. Hamstrung for years by legal obstacles and public apathy, Atlanta was then able to implement its 5-year plan to clear or renovate large areas of dilapidated housing. Now, a new spirit of citizen participation is pushing improvements along rapidly.

Anniston's winning program got under way when 9,000 school children completed a home-improvement census, and Chamber of Commerce members underwrote a $50,000 war chest of time and money. As other organizations pitched in, the city adopted a tight housing code and hired a housing coordinator. Run-down dwellings have been demolished, others have been modernized, and plans have been completed for 90 new low-priced units under FHA's Section 221.

Columbia's award comes as the result of a program that has razed 280 dilapidated dwellings and improved 381 others. High school students helped dramatize this drive by rebuilding—as their own idea—the rickety home of an 85-year-old Negro woman. Columbia is also cited for its citizen-backed Urban Rehabilitation program that has produced unusually homelike public housing.

Two Atlanta Ministers Hit Urban Renewal Plan

Two prominent Atlanta ministers Tuesday night attacked the Atlanta urban renewal program as a design to perpetuate discrimination and segregation.

The attack was unleashed by can now start getting together final plans including appraisals of some 4,000 parcels of property in the areas, details of planned improvements, sections, reports on other information, and a clearance and rebuilding schedule for each section.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A special committee of the Atlanta Business and Professional Association presented a report Tuesday which called for the formation of a business corporation to repurchase and develop or re-develop some of the land made available through urban renewal.

The report was accepted and tentative plans set for subsequent discussion of the proposal. The special committee was headed by Jefferson Bryant and J. H. Calhoun.

Bishop Wilkes told members of the Association that his committee had sought to contact various officials connected with urban renewal and they were generally, "conspicuously absent." He said it was very difficult to contact them.

ORGANIZED PLAN

He said the urban renewal program represents the most organized plan dedicated to the perpetuation of discrimination and segregation. He stated he felt that every Southern city is trying to grab the "tool of urban renewal" for fostering their so-called "Southern way of life."

Rev. Borders said he agreed with the statements of the Bishop and related a talk he had with Mayor Hartsfield in which the mayor said he had delegated the entire matter of urban renewal to a committee and that he was not familiar with the kind of treatment Negroes were getting.

Rev. Borders said nothing has ever shown a belittlement of the Negro more than Hartsfield's words.

Bishop William R. Wilkes, AME prelate, and head of the Overall Citizens Committee on Urban Renewal, and the Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church. Both spoke before a large meeting of the Atlanta Business and Professional Association which has been staging a series of talks on urban renewal as it affects Atlanta Negroes.

Bishop Wilkes said urban renewal amounts to a revolution from the social, political and economic standpoints and that the Negro will come out on the short end of each of the aspects.

PLAN OKAYED

Shortly before the Association's meeting began, urban renewal officials announced that the federal government has okayed the preliminary planning reports on the close-in Butler Street and University Center projects.

The regional Housing and Home Finance Agency office here Tuesday also gave the Atlanta Housing Authority approval for its "eligibility and relocation" reports on the Rockdale Park and Thomasville areas.

Final plans for these two project areas must be completed by December 15, and those for the third urban renewal project, the Washington-Rawson area, must be completed by the same date if the city is to receive the $12,189,000 in federal funds already set aside for slum clearence and urban renewal.

The Atlanta Housing Authority

Alcoholics Fight Skid's Row Through Helping Hand Group

40,821 Drunks Cost Atlanta Taxpayers The Sum Of $816,420 During '57, Records Reveal

By EDDIE WILLIAMS

He slurped down the last drop of his "alley cocktail" — a concoction of paint thinner and soft drink — and as the haze of misconceived bliss enveloped him, he staggered from the alley and into the arms of a policeman. "I ain't drunk," he protested.

With face unshaved, clothes unkempt and a stench of alley cocktails, he appeared before an Atlanta Municipal Court judge to get his hunk of justice which, in most drunk cases, generally amounts to 15 to 30 days in jail.

While he is issuing the sentence the judge realizes this man is sick. He is an alcoholic. He is one of some 40,821 drunks who cost the taxpayers $816,420 last year. This money was used for arrest and trial of alcoholics.

SEEK ECONOMY BARGAINS

An alcoholic, generally, is one who is too weak to break the habit of drinking. Alcoholics have been known to drink anything with a "kick" behind it. Store-bought liquor, of course, is the number one choice drink, but, unfortunately, the men and women caught in the web of alcoholism are unable to buy store brands. Those who have a few dollars seek economy bargains in illegal whiskey or moonshine.

There is, however, a large segment of alcoholics who feast on a weird category of home brews. Popular among these is the alley cocktail, the pink lady which is a mixture of strained canned heat and soft drink, and cake flavoring and water.

Since the only solution the city offers to the problem of alcoholism is imprisonment which absorbs more public money, two private agencies have been established with a view toward encouraging drunks to stop drinking. Such an agency is the Helping Hand Group, a Negro organization constructed along lines similar to the chartered Helping Hand, Inc., for white alcoholics.

SORELY NEEDED AGENCY

The Negro group was organized under the leadership of Ernest W. Wright last November and sponsored by Municipal Court Judge James Webb. It is a sorely needed agency dedicated to the rehabilitation of drunks. It believes in "another chance without incrimination."

Briefly, this is how the Helping Hand program works in conjunction with Municipal Court. Persons found guilty of being drunk are eligible for admission to the group on a voluntary basis. They must agree to obey the terms of their eight weeks probation and accept the conditions of the group.

During this probationary period, the offenders undergo a series of weekly instruction periods under Wright and his staff whose aims are to encourage them to help themselves and their fellowmen. If, at the end of this period, the alcoholics do not feel they are rehabilitated, they are allowed to remain in the program for as long as they like.

Wright said the training program emphasizes the "how to do better method." Instead of heaping on the alcoholics loads of principles, "we simply tell them the results of drinking and leave the decision with them," he explained.

PROGRAM BIG SUCCESS

The program has had laudable success and has been praised for its role in rehabilitating alcoholics and saving taxpayers' money. A total of 125 persons have completed the program already, and there are presently 79 alcoholics enrolled in the group.

The organization has a 78 per cent success record, Wright said. A rehabilitant is deemed successful when he does not appear in court again on whiskey charges. It is hoped that when a rehabilitant does not appear in court that he is off the bottle, Wright said. Those who fall prey to the bottle again are remanded to the court which issues stern prison sentences.

Wright said he has instructed alcoholics from all economic and social backgrounds and with drinking histories ranging from two to 35 years. They range in ages from 18 to 68. However, he quickly pointed out that age is no limiting factor.

Working along with Wright are J. R. Smith, Turner Carter and Detectives C. J. Perry and E. H. Lyons, all of whom are voluntary workers. Their dream is to see the city set up a full time rehabilitation program for alcoholics.

CLINIC FOR ALCOHOLICS

Judge Webb wants to see a clinic for alcoholics at the prison farm. Several months ago he charged that the present method of dealing with drunks is "a disgrace to the city."

"These people are sick," he said. "They need therapeutic help. Instead of giving them help and heading them towards the road of becoming useful citizens, we sweep them under the rug and pretend they are not there."

Wright and other workers in the Helping Hand Group donate their time, services, talents and in some cases, money, for the rehabilitation of the men and women captured under the bottle. They take pride in boasting that their group is dedicated to uplifting the morale and conduct of fellow humans who have staggered by the wayside.

According to Wright, "regardless of the percentage of success in helping [illegible] people, if we save one, we feel we've done something for the individual and society."

LESSON ON ALCOHOLISM—A group of unidentified members of the Atlanta Helping Hand Group are listening to a talk by Judge James Webb in Municipal Court during one of their weekly meetings. All of the members are guilty of drunkenness. Standing on the left is Ernest W. Wright, founder of the rehabilitation organization for Negroes.—(Perry's Photo)

$75,000 Fixed as Negro Goal for Community Services

By CLAUDE GEORGE SR.

A total $75,000 is the target figure for the Negro division Community Services 1958-59 fund drive, according to Dr. Harry V. Richardson, general chairman.

Nearly 500 key workers will man out over Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb counties soliciting business firms, labor organizations, and individuals in the tri-county area.

Leaders have been named for the six divisions of the campaign organization. They are: Mr. P. Q. Yancey, professional; Prof. G. L. Chandler, religious and educational; Mrs. Olivette Allison, clubs and organizations; T. A. Brittain, labor.

Mrs. Roberta Parks will head the house to house division, and T. M. Alexander, the business division.

The current campaign looms as one of the most important, said Dr. Richardson, "because of the vast unemployment and the large amount of suffering in the tri-county area."

Sewing Classes

Classes in sewing, sponsored by the Atlanta Board of Education, are now open to adults at the following locations:

Carver Vocational School, Booker T. Washington High School, David T. Howard High School.

Eagen Homes, Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

University Homes and John Hope Homes, Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Alonzo F. Herndon Homes, Thursday 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Henry W. Grady Homes, Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Carver Vocational School principal J. H. Bohannon announced that extension courses are now being offered in catering. The course will meet Monday and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Study for Teachers

Special courses for in-service teachers and regularly employed persons will be offered again this semester by Atlanta University.

Courses are scheduled in English, French, social science, sociology and anthropology. Other courses will be offered in the schools of education, library service and business administration.

Courses being offered for the first time this semester are French phonetics and diction, introduction to the study of exceptional children, IBM accounting methods, and real estate law.

Special registration hours are set for September 20, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the registrar's office. Students may register daily from September 16 through October from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

News Photo Exhibit

The traveling exhibit of the 14th annual "News Picture of the Year" competition, cosponsored by the National Press Photographers Assn. and Encyclopedia Britannica will be on display at the Atlanta University library starting September 17.

Gray-Y Meeting

The Gray-Y, sponsors of the Butler street YMCA, will hold its first meeting at the boys recreation center 6 p.m. Monday, Mrs. A. H. Johnson, president of the Gray-Y council said.

The council will outline plans for 1958-59 activities, Mrs. Johnson added.

Community Problems Discussed

Fulton Grand Jury Meets With Negro Leaders Here

BY EDDIE WILLIAMS

Ten Atlanta Negro leaders appeared before the Fulton County Grand Jury at the request of Fulton Sol. Gen. Paul Webb Friday to discuss community problems.

Various subject were discussed by the leaders who appeared before the jury individually for periods of about five minutes. Following is a review of the subjects the leaders were scheduled to discuss:

Warren R. Cochrane, executive secretary of the Butler Street YMCA: opening statement and general background;

Q. V. Williamson, president of the Empire Real Estate Board and businessman - substandard housing, population and "cat-walk apartments;"

Mrs. S. J. Crank, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley YMCA: inadequacy of parks, including the limited number of parks and the limited staffs of parks;

Mrs. Grace Hamilton, executive secretary of the Atlanta Urban League: overcrowded schools and inadequate facilities;

C. A. Scott, editor and general manager of The Atlanta Daily World: low wages, limited job opportunities, need for more liberal policies in the Welfare Department, and the recommendation of a Boys Town where Negro orphans and underprivileged boys could receive a home and education;

Attorney A. T. Walden and D. L. Hollowell: dual standards of justice, including similarities in sentences irrespective of race, and proposals for a prosecutor and a public defender for recorder's court, and a recommendation for judges, rather than juries, to fix sentences;

W. H. Aikens, contractor: attitude of Negroes toward crime and law enforcement;

Atty. Cassandra Maxwell: Negro participation on juries and quality of jurors, unwed mothers, and the need for more adequate remedial homes, for more adequate staff and more detention facilities under the juvenile court;

C. R. Yates, businessman: recommendation for Negro investigators in Fulton Criminal Courts, for Negro school detectives, for more Negro policemen and for enforcement of laws against switch blade knives and prohibition of the sale of such knives.

Businessman T. M. Alexander was also invited to address the grand jury but could not attend.

The leaders appeared before the jurors, headed by Foreman E. K. Shuhart, from 1:55 p. m. until 4:30 p. m.

In Columbus, Ga.

Negroes Organize Improvement Groups

(Courier Press Service)

COLUMBUS, Ga. — With their eyes on "their responsibilities as residents, and obligations as citizens in a growing progressive metropolis," Negroes in three sections of Columbus have organized themselves into improvement associations.

First to be organized was the Willis Plaza Improvement Association formed June 23 and headed by Albert W. Thompson, only Negro lawyer here. Following Willis Plaza came the organization of the Washington Heights section, and then came organization in Carver Heights.

INTEREST IN THE new associations is at a high peak. With some 140 families living in the new Willis Plaza subdivision, all of them have joined the association. Meetings draw from 65 to 70 persons regularly. On the current agenda are steps to secure needed improvements in the area from the Muscogee County officials. Several meetings have been held with city officials already. The Washington Heights group has already been able to get a new playground.

All of the associations plan to initiate register-to-vote campaigns, and one has already started with a house-to-house canvass system. It is also intended to set up similar associations in each Negro section of the city, and to blend the Negro vote into a powerful factor in coming elections.

Other officers of the original group, Willis Plaza, are: A. J. McClung, first vice president; Mrs. Ruby Mayberry, second vice president; S. Leon Brown, recording secretary; Clifford Rutledge, corresponding secretary; C. W. DuVaul, treasurer; Sgt. Alphonso Allen, chaplain; John Washington, parliamentarian; M. A. Clarke, chairman, board of directors.

■

CITIZENS HERE SEE the new organizations as the hope of Negroes for getting together to fight for civic and racial betterment here. There are 55,880 Negroes in the Columbus area.—TWA.

City Must Find Homes For Displaced Citizens

BY GENE BRITTON

Atlanta will have to come to terms with its conscience and with practicality in relocating displaced persons before it can take any real action in slum clearance.

The city urban renewal department estimates 4,216 Negro families and 456 white families will eventually become displaced persons through the urban renewal program.

The issues which have arisen from the relocation problem have become staggering. They threaten to snarl the city's hopes for saving itself and its citizens from blight in a hopeless tangle of opposing opinions.

The city's urban renewal director, Col. Malcolm Jones, on February 9, told reporters:

"If our . . . (rehousing) program moves no faster in the next six months than it has in the past, we may lose it."

The press reported on March 9: "Atlanta's urban renewal housing effort has come to a virtual standstill."

according to Col. Malcolm Jones, the city's urban renewal director.

"Every time a builder gets ready to put up a "221" house, one of the aldermen comes in with a petition to change the zoning in the area. Frequently, as soon as the builder shows an interest in a particular tract, somebody wants to change the zoning.

In one instance, Col. Jones pointed out, a builder obtained an option to buy a large tract of land in the Ben Hill area for subdivision development. There were 25 land lots in the area, all with R-5 zoning, the most ideal classification for "221" homes. An Alderman introduced and the Aldermanic Board passed an ordinance halting the issuance of building permits in the area.

Mayor Hartsfield said he signed the ordinance without knowing what it was or the significance of it.

There are only three areas in the city where there are substantial areas of land cheap enough to get a builder interested in relocation development, Col. Jones said. He listed them as Ben Hill, Adamsville and Lakewood.

"As it stands now, a builder is cutting his own throat to invest in these or any other R-5 areas that might be available since there is a likelihood the zoning may be changed or building permits cut off to keep the '221' houses out."

One builder who was interviewed substantiated Col. Jones' contentions. He said he had located 10 different tracts of land, each of which he thought would be well suited for "221" housing for both Negroes and whites.

He said he eventually had to foreget all of them.

"The aldermen are blocking the program," he said.

SPECIAL MEETING

Last week, Mayor Hartsfield called a special session of the aldermanic board "to find out where the trouble is" in urban renewal.

The meeting lasted about two hours. It had to be adjourned for lack of a quorum. One by one. the aldermen had walked out of the discussions.

Col. Jones said there is no doubt the aldermen are being pressured by property owners that might become neighbors of some of the former slum dwellers who would occupy the "221" houses.

He said he thinks most of the people of Atlanta favor urban renewal. But the minority opposition groups apparently are better organized, he added.

Col. Jones, a leader in the urban renewal drive and an advocate of "221" housing as one of the most logical solutions to the problem of relocating persons living in slums that would be torn down under the program, has been the target of much of the more fanatic elements of the opposition.

MORBID JOKE

One night about a month ago a hearse from one of Atlanta's leading funeral homes pulled up in front of his residence. The attendants came to the door and informed Col. Jones they had been sent to pick up his body. It developed that some member of the opposition group with a morbid sense of humor had called the funeral home with false information as a means of harrassing the urban renewal director.

The former Army officer has also received numerous anonymous phone calls, some of them threatening.

One caller told him that unless "you lay off this urban renewal business, you'll wish you were back in the Army."

Some of the opposition to the "221" program takes a more respectable approach, however. A group from one area of town, which has been mentioned as a good spot for the relocation houses, has organized itself into the Fourth Ward Zoning Committee.

The committee recently announced, "We object to all of the '221' houses being constructed or to be constructed in any location in the City of Atlanta for the displaced persons and recommend that the city change their plans to multi-family dwellings to be located in the urban renewal areas."

Multi-family houses may be built under the "221" program and can be built anywhere in the city where suitable land can be found, but they must be built by non-profit organizations. So far there have been no takers. (Single-family "221" houses may be built anywhere by private enterprise.) Section 220 of the National Housing Act provides for multi-family dwellings that may be built only inside the urban renewal areas.

The Fourth Ward group also said the houses would be built in areas that are not equipped to provide the extra fire and police protection, schools and transportation services that would be needed.

Supporters of the program argue that the needed services would follow the added population into the areas.

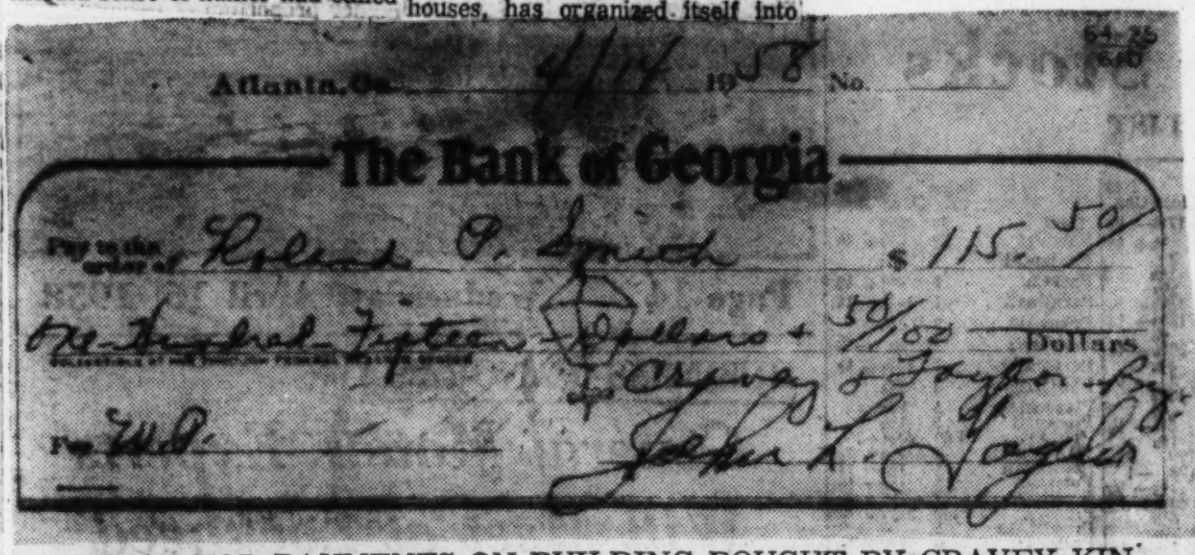
What may eventually turn out to be the most logical objection to the "221" houses is the possibility, suggested by some opponents, that they may deteriorate into slums themselves by the time they are paid for.

The reasoning is that the slum dwellers who purchase them will be low-income families. They may not be able to afford the financial burden of upkeep, and as a result the low-cost structures could decline fast in value and in appearance.

However, steps have been proposed to insure the durability of the $9,000 houses. Some building experts are insisting that brick veneer siding be required on all of them rather than plyboard siding originally recommended.

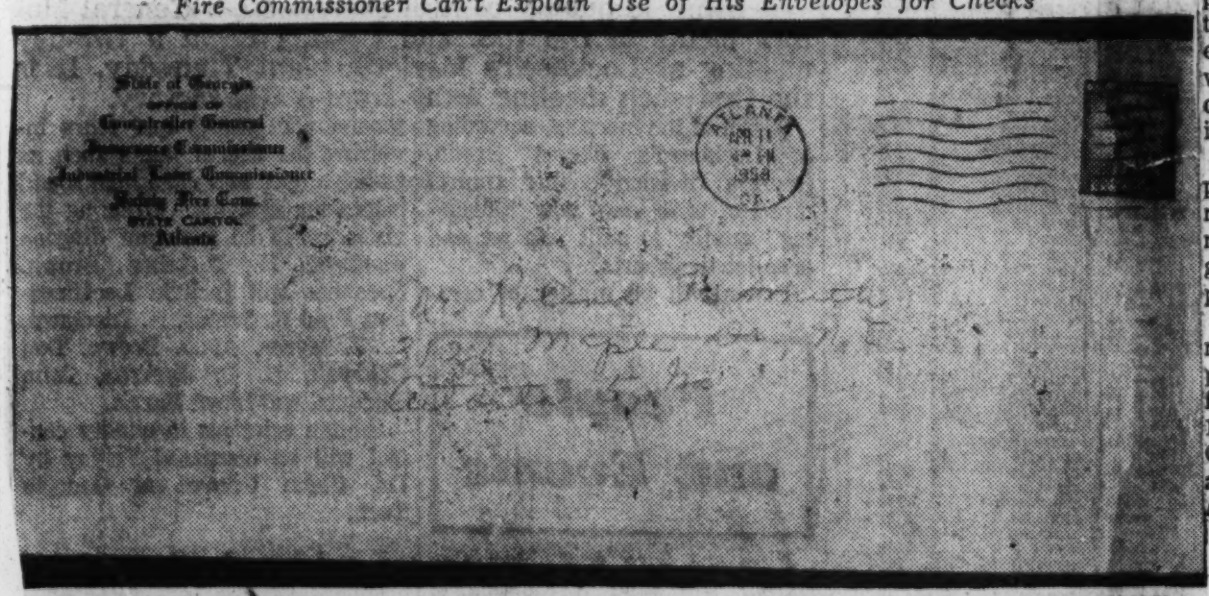
Regardless of the promlems and pressures, professional city planners are warning that Atlanta must get its slum-clearance program and the related relocation plan into effect, come what may.

"Any city that does not set in motion by 1960 a comprehensive program to halt blight will be flirting with municipal ruin by 1965," according to Albert M. Cole, administrator of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency.



CHECK FOR PAYMENTS ON BUILDING BOUGHT BY CRAVEY KIN

Fire Commissioner Can't Explain Use of His Envelopes for Checks



CRAVEY'S OFFICIAL ENVELOPES USED FOR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

Commissioner Says He Couldn't Tell Why "To Save My Life"

1,500,000 by 1980 EXPECTED

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 4-25-58

Atlanta Plan Prepares For Population Shifts

By GENE HUTTON

Large segments of Atlanta's population will be shuffled between now and 1980, according to the Atlanta-Fulton County Joint Planning Board's "Comprehensive Plan."

The population rearrangement will of necessity mean a rearrangement of land uses in vast areas of the city.

The tempo of population growth will be stepped up during the period covered by the plan, until, in 1980, there are 1,500,000 people in the metropolitan area and 655,700 in Atlanta proper.

That means an increase of 592,850 people in the metropolitan area and 148,100 people within the city limits during the next 22 years.

Somewhere, homes will have to be found for the newcomers. In addition, thousands of families will be moving out of some sections and into others as slum clearance and redevelopment projects move along.

"One important qualification," says the comprehensive plan, "must be made for this 1980 distribution pattern. Of the 655,700 city residents expected by 1980 about 611,000 can be reasonably predicted as to their future location within the city. The remaining 44,700 represent certain 'relocatees' who, under maximum development programs, will be displaced between now and 1980 from new expressway rights-of way and from future (not current) renewal projects cleared for non-residential re-use.

"The precise location of their resettlement within the metropolitan area will depend on the factors:

"1. The total amount of renewal clearance which occurs between now and 1980.

"2. The total amount of non-residential re-use which occurs within these future clearance areas.

"3. The creation of new relocation projects not now anticipated as to specific location within the city.

"4. The percentage of relocatees who will choose to relocate outside the present city limits."

The plan points out that the significance of these 44,700 "floating relocatees" is the effect they will have on the community facility load of the neighborhoods in which they relocate.

OVERALL NEED

"The shifting of several thousand residents from one part of the city to another might not seriously affect the overall need for, say, schools or playgrounds, but it will have a serious impact on the particular school and playground needs of the locality in which they settle.

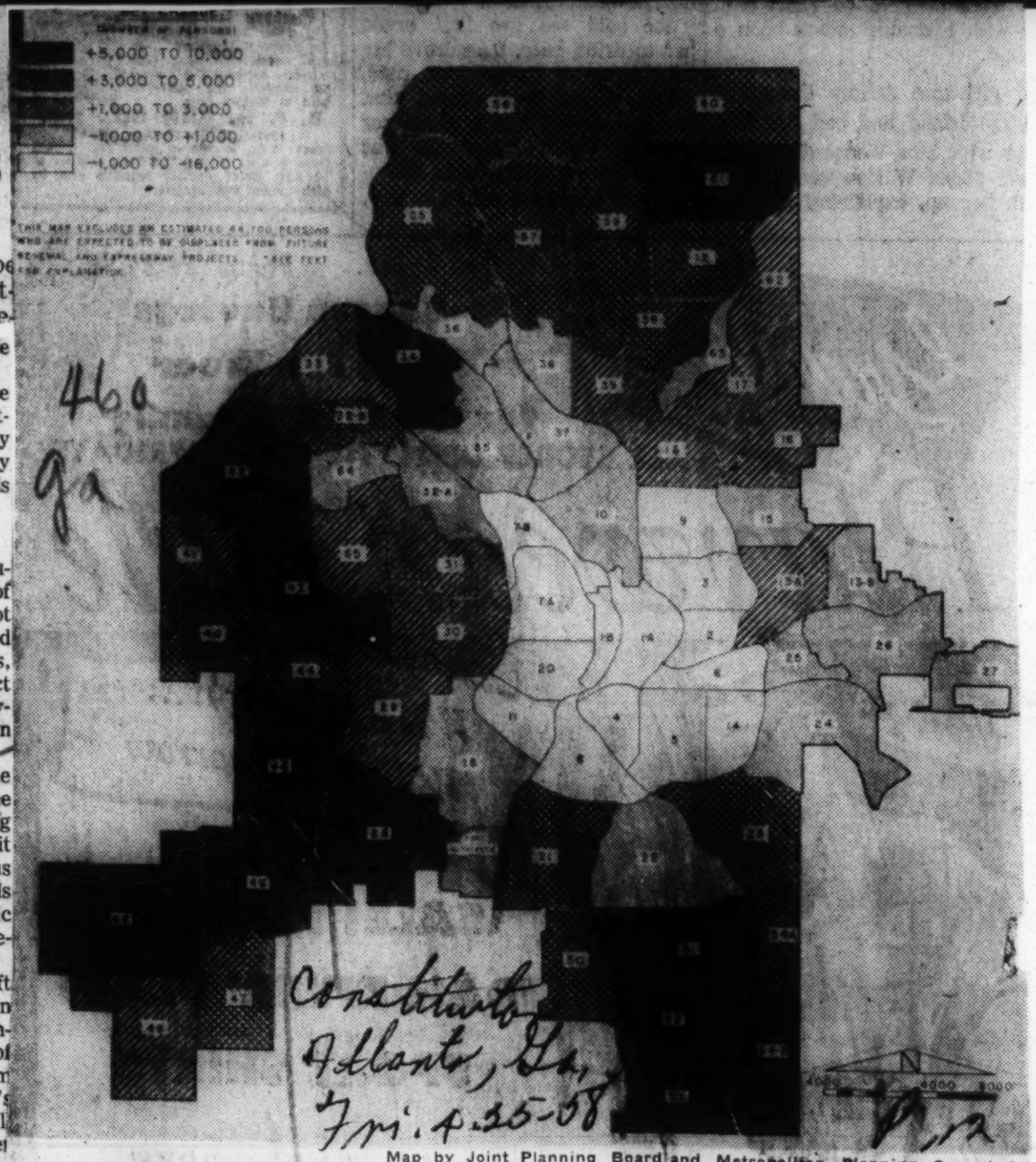
"Just as an extreme example to illustrate the point, imagine the impact of all 44,700 resettling in one area! This makes it especially important that various city and county department heads be kept well informed on specific relocation plans as they are developed."

Generally, the population shift will be away from the downtown core, according to the maps contained in the plan. Thousands of dwelling units—many of them slums—which now ring Atlanta's heart, the business district, will presumably be torn down under the slum clearance and urban renewal programs.

Although, the projected look into 1980 still shows considerable population density in the near-downtown area, there will be a thinning out. More people will be living in the west, southwest and southeast sections, particularly. The north sections, too, will become more densely populated, but to a slightly lesser degree than the other areas.

5,000 TO 10,000

During the next 23 years, according to the plan, many areas on the south and west sides of town can expect an increase of 5,000 to 10,000 residents. On the other hand, several of the central areas will have a net loss of between 1,000 and 16,000 persons during the same period.



Map by Joint Planning Board and Metropolitan Planning Commission

POPULATION SHIFTS PREDICTED FOR ATLANTA BY 1980

The expected "fruit basket turnover" in population plus the influx in newcomers will demand a whole new range of development programs and controls including zoning enforcement, subdivision control and urban renewal.

Urban renewal, present and future, will include not only clearance projects, but neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation programs as well, according to the planners.

Urban Redevelopment Debacle

Just now Atlantans are reading prominent press reports touching the Urban Redevelopment Program.

The charges and counter charges hurled surely are inopportune and from the outset should have been guarded against and not allowed to come out here in this unfortunate wash.

It is highly possible that such a project as the Urban Renewal Program should have proceeded along in a more peaceable fashion if a citizens committee had been appointed earlier in the program; that under its terms there could be no desire on the part of anybody to do an injury to one or inconvenience the tranquillity of the populace.

We have enough sanity, common interest and cool deliberations as yet to get on some common ground of mutual understanding. Surely gentlemen will seek that ground.

No doubt the resolution reportedly adopted by the Executive Committee of the local NAACP a few weeks ago asking non approval of the Atlanta program has brought this flurry of activity in defense of the project by local officials.

The resolution sent to various agencies stated in part:

". . . We call upon all agencies concerned with Atlanta's slum clearance program and urban renewal to deny approval until solutions to the problems . . . are devised and established."

In the first place, it seems to us that a resolution of this importance would have been approved by a public rather than executive group. And if taken by an executive body it should have been promptly released to the press with a covering statement clearly putting forth the reasons for the action.

The position taken by the local NAACP President J. H. Calhoun to the extent, and we quote: "We have no argument with any officials in regards to the slum clearance program" while proceeding with a request of delaying what the officials are actually sponsoring, would hardly have a consistent ring.

Neither would the position of Mayor Hartsfield to the extent that this is "an arrogant effort to tear up what they cannot control" pour any oil on the troubled waters.

But there is not much point in dwelling now too much on the past. A Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed early this year to work along with the city and federal planners and the main purpose of this committee is to look out for the interest of the citizens affected by the program. On this committee are three members of our racial group. They are Messrs. C. V. Williamson, E. L. Simon, and Dr. Harry Richardson. We understand this body will meet this Thursday, let the NAACP officials get with this committee and see if the differences can be ironed out. We believe they can.

We hate to see open disagreement between a segment of our leadership and the city's chief executive.

Urban Redevelopment is provided for by law and it is necessary to some extent. The only question is to what extent.

Whether we shall have redevelopment or not is not the question. All responsible persons will work tirelessly for agreement and understanding in connection with the program, and, of all times, dealing fairly and justly with the people affected.

SLUM WORK URGED TO SPUR ECONOMY

U. S. Asks Cities to Utilize Federal Millions Set Aside for Urban Renewal

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

Municipal officials were urged yesterday to push lagging projects for urban renewal into construction as a means of easing the business recession.

Richard L. Steiner, Federal Commissioner of Urban Renewal, said that millions of dollars earmarked by the United States Government for slum clearance were lying idle because communities had failed to start redevelopments after making planning studies.

The activation of these projects will do more economic good, and do it faster, than the authorization of new Federal programs, Mr. Steiner said. He addressed 325 officials and housing experts from seventy-one communities in seven northeastern states where Urban renewal projects are under way or in planning.

$340,000,000 Committed

The conference, which resumes today in the Commodore Hotel, was called by Walter S. Fried, regional administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, to discuss ways of advancing more projects from planning into execution. He said that in New York and the six New England states $340,000,000 was tied up in Federal grants for 131 projects. But only forty-one, involving Federal grants totaling $148,000,000, were in construction or operation.

Mr. Fried and Robert Moses, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance, also urged more redevelopment of slum areas as an anti-recession measure. Mr. Moses, denouncing "rattlesnake critics" of his slum clearance methods, said more projects could be started sooner if there were "much less red tape, changes in procedure and arbitrary orders from Washington and its regional branches."

Declaring that a great amount of housing had been produced in the post-war emergency shortage by methods that were later criticized, he said:

"In this period some speculators made too much money. Others lost and received no sympathy. In the final audit the United States Government didn't lose a cent. The moral is that the emergency work of this world is not done either by critics or by constipated commachasers."

In the face of the present economic recession, Mr. Moses said, building could be spurred again "almost overnight" by the same sort of crash program and freedom from red tape.

Union Housing Backed

Mr. Moses disclosed that the slum clearance committee was dropping one project from its planning list to permit speedier redevelopment of the site as a housing cooperative of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The union plans to sponsor a 7,000-apartment development on the Jamaica Race Track site.

Mr. Moses, as City Construction Coordinator, will recommend to the Board of Estimate that the city buy the track, which is to be abandoned as a race course at the end of this season, and resell it to the union's housing group.

State Senator MacNeil Mitchell was critical of the large amount of high-rent housing being built on slum clearance sites here. He is co-author of the Mitchell-Lama Law, which makes long-term, low-interest state and city loans available to builders of limited-profit rental housing and nonprofit cooperatives for middle-income families.

There is no legal limit on the rent private developers may charge for apartments they build on slum-cleared sites, so long as they pay full taxes and do not receive Mitchell-Lama loans. But Senator Mitchell said there was an obligation on the part of the slum clearance committee to utilize some of these sites, cleared with Federal and city slum clearance funds, for more middle-income housing.

Mayor Richard C. Lee of New Haven said that what an urban renewal program needed for success was community support, good administration and a mayor or city manager who was not afraid "to lay his political career on the line", to push the projects from planning through construction.

Members Endorse NAACP Resolution On Urban Renewal

The Atlanta chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Monday night re-endorsed its resolution on slum clearance and urban renewal and urged all leaders and groups to "work together in harmony on this vital program for the community."

The resolution was endorsed by the general body after a report by the Rev. William Holmes Borders and members of the local committee of the All Citizens Committee which has been working on slum clearance.

The meeting was held at Wheat Street Baptist Church. There was considerable discussion of hardships encountered in re-locating projects.

Rev. Borders declares that "segregation, color and politics" were some of the factors that complicated the rural redevelopment program.

C. A. Scott of the Atlanta Daily World told the audience that the Redevelopment program will no doubt work a hardship for some, but it is the duty of these committees representing the Negro people who are largely affected by the program to see that they get justice in connection with it. He urged close cooperation with the All-Citizens Committee.

Mr. Charles Johnson, a business man on Maher Street told of the problem confronting the people in that area.

The chapter adopted the report of the executive committee and voted $250 to support the state registration committee. It was also revealed that the Rev. J. Raymond Henderson, former pastor of Wheat Street will visit Atlanta on May 2

on his tour to raise $100,000 for the NAACP during 1958-59. A special committee was formed to work with him.

Mayor Hartsfield Declares

Urban Plans Equal Other Dixie Cities

Atlanta's Urban Renewal Program has progressed as well as that of any other Southern city, Mayor William B. Hartsfield said Friday as he affixed authority and responsibility for the program "Squarely" on the shoulders of the Aldermen.

Addressing a special session of the Aldermanic Board in the Aldermanic Chambers, the mayor pointed out that recent charges by local newspapers that officials are not pushing the program were unfounded.

He said Atlanta's redevelopment program has many complications, one of which is "the great shadow of the race issue." Hartsfield said, "the ease and speed with which we get through with the relocation problem will determine how soon we get this program signed."

He was referring to final approval and a go ahead sign from the Federal Government.

Much of his address dealt with a recorded telephone conversation he had earlier Friday with the Mayor of New Haven, Conn., where urban renewal is reportedly progressing smoothly.

Hartsfield said the big difference between him and New Haven's Mayor Lee is that Lee has much more power.

Relocation in New Haven was accomplished through available housing. Mayor Lee said not enough land was available to use the federal 221 housing program.

Lee also pointed out that 52 per cent of the persons relocated were Negroes and that "no problems" were encountered.

Others addressing the Aldermanic body were M. B. Satterfield of the Atlanta Housing Authority which has physical control of the local redevelopment program, and Cecil Alexander, chairman of a Citizens Advisory Committee recently appointed by the mayor.

Hartsfield called the special session Thursday. He said Atlanta newspapers are accusing him and his administration with slowing down the urban renewal program.

He concluded the major portion of his address by assuring the Aldermen that "with our delay and disagreements, we have nothing to be ashamed of in this field."

and flowering shrubbery and clean back yards.

However, experts in other areas of the country where urban renewal has been successful warn that the entire slum clearance and relocation program is endangered in any city that satisfies itself with the rehabilitation of buildings alone.

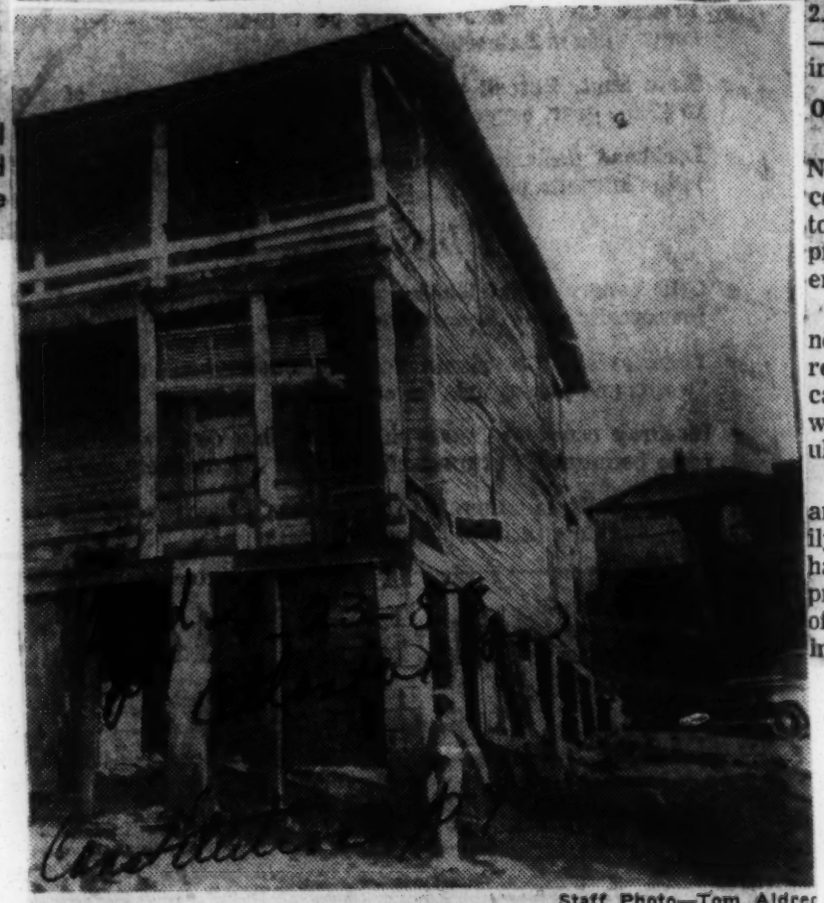
"You have to rehabilitate some people, too," said one expert in New Haven, Conn. "You can't expect to take families out of the shabby backgrounds they've had for years, put them in clean quarters and expect them overnight to become better citizens."

New Haven, through its school system and welfare agencies, has inaugurated a highly successful, highly popular educational program for its former slum dwellers. Men are offered courses in do-it-yourself home repair. Women are taught homemaking and child care. When the adults do not avail themselves of the training, their children usually do. Children are taught the elements of good deportment and a wide variety of crafts.

Atlanta, too, has a good rehabilitation program working in its public housing projects. Home economists of the utility companies go into the projects and hold classes to teach sanitation and proper use of home utilities. Community Chest agencies hold classes for adults and children alike in the project community centers. In almost all cases, the rehabilitation programs are working. People who used to live in filth are now well-washed, good citizens.

But Atlanta has a limited number of housing project units. The turnover is slow. Most of the present slum families will never find their way into public housing. There is not enough room for them in what Atlanta has, and influential real estate interests are opposed to construction of any more units.

Hovels or Hope



Staff Photo—Tom Aldred

TENANTS FIND LITTLE TO SPUR IMPROVEMENT

Few Feel It's Worth While to Paint or Plant

Slum Folk Don't Make Slums, Atlanta Finds

By GENE BRITTON

Some of the more calloused elements of opposition to Atlanta's slum clearance campaign have charged there is no point in finding better housing for slum dwellers because slum dwellers create slums.

The cynical opponents are reasoning that regardless of how fine the new housing facilities are, the former slum families will not care for them properly and the money spent on relocation will only be payment on slums of the future.

Atlanta's experience in public housing is a definite denial of that argument.

ALMOST 7,500 UNITS

The Atlanta Housing Authority operates a total of almost 7,500 low-rent units for both whites and Negro families, most of whom were once the slum dwellers. The Housing Authority maintains an extremely strict set of regulations for tenancy. If the tenant fails to observe the rules for good, sanitary housekeeping, he and his family are forced to move.

Every one of the 7,500 units is inspected at least once a year to insure compliance with the rules. If there is any sign the tenant is failing to meet the community standard of conduct, he must leave.

During 1957, only 104 white families and 57 Negro families—2.14 per cent of total occupancy—were forced to move for general infraction of the rules.

ONE PER CENT EVICTED

Only 11 white families and five Negro families—less than one per cent of occupancy—were forced to move for poor housekeeping practices or destruction of property.

But what of the families who now live in the approved urban renewal areas who will be relocated in homes of their own where no Housing Authority regulations will apply?

Most housing experts in Atlanta and elsewhere agree that the family which lives in its own home has a natural tendency toward pride in the physical appearance of the property. There is a desire in most instances for green lawns

HANDICAPPED AND HAPPY—Mrs. Agnes Vaughn, one of thousands of persons rehabilitated under a vocational program sponsored by the Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is shown operating a sewing machine with a specially designed head control. She is a professional seamstress, and she is paralyzed from the waist down.

A Dark Past, A Bright Future

Rehabilitation Program Aids Paraphlegic Here

By EDDIE WILLIAMS

(This is the first of two articles on the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation program and the people it has helped.)

A dark past, a bright future, a voice of gladness, a smile, an eloquence of beauty" is the story of Mrs. Agnes Vaughn, a paraphlegic.

Paralyzed from the waist down, Mrs. Vaughn says the future holds for her many interesting things such as expanding her business and driving a car. The injury which caused her to be vocationally handicapped is a thing of the past now and she is looking toward a bright tomorrow.

If you ask this cheerful woman of a hundred and one talents how she was able to come from the depths of despair to the heights of small business success and personal happiness, she is apt to tell you quickly that "Vocational Rehabilitation is the most wonderful thing I've heard of. It helped me a lot, it's a wonderful thing."

Vocational rehabilitation means the restoration of disabled persons to the maximum vocational, physical, social and economic usefulness of which they are capable.

SERIOUSLY INJURED

In February, 1957, Mrs. Vaughn, who resides at 628 Hunt St. NE., received a serious spinal injury which seemed destined to keep her in agony in a bed for the rest of her life. For nearly nine months she fought off misery and pain as she lay in bed and saw her hopes for a successful career grow dim.

Before she was injured, she had attended several Atlanta high schools and later went to Chicago where she completed the home economics course at Wendell Phillips High School. Her next step was to complete studies at the Lucy Flowers Trade School in Chicago where she became proficient in dressmaking and designing.

Applying these skills was a world of joy, but disaster came. It was not until August of 1957 that she got a glimpse of what could be her stairway to the stars. She joined thousands of other handicapped Georgians who were recuperating, training and working under the state's program for vocational rehabilitation.

Persons accepted for vocational rehabilitation are provided with medical and other services, artificial limbs, training equipment, job placement, and in some cases an initial allocation of money to go into business. This multi-service program is financed jointly by the state and the federal government.

Handicaps among the 5326 persons rehabilitated in Georgia last year included impairment of limbs, disfigurement, blindness, deafness, arthritis, gynecological ailments, goiters, ulcers, and epilepsy.

PREPARED FOR JOB

After physical rehabilitation, the the program begins preparing rehabilitants to some profitable job. This training is provided with state and federal funds in colleges, business and trade schools throughout the country. A special on-the-job training program is also available.

Mrs. Vaughn, who received her training before she was injured and who was rehabilitated to her new life and environment through the program, can do everything in her modestly furnished apartment except scrub the floor and change the linen on her bed. The furnishings in her home are arranged so she can get at everything from her wheel chair.

Not even hanging curtains on rods about nine feet off the floor is a problem for her. She has a special device which gives her additional reach from her sitting position.

"Rehabilitation can teach you a lot but you've got to do so much for yourself," she said.

Conducting her business at home, Mrs. Vaughn operates a sewing machine with a specially designed chin control. She uses low portable tables for cutting purposes and special stands to facilitate taking measurements.

A Christian woman, Mrs. Vaughn is thinking about getting a car so she can drive herself to church and other places. Her friends drive her to church now.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program means a lot to Mrs. Vaughn, and she means a lot to Vocational Rehabilitation. Her very existence signifies "it can be done."

(A second article on Vocational Rehabilitation will feature a young victim of arthritis and heart trouble who became a proficient worker in electronics.)

EXCELLENT FUTURE IN ELECTRONICS—John W. Sexton, 23, who received training and experience in Atlanta under the Vocational Rehabilitation program, is shown checking into a maize of electronic circuits. Vocationally handicapped by a heart condition and arthritis, this graduate of Douglasville High School and a local radio and television institution has an excellent future in electronics.

A Respectable, Independent Life

Winston Man Overcomes Dual Physical Handicap

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 5-17-58

By EDDIE WILLIAMS

(This is the last of two articles on the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation program and the people it has helped.)

Few handicaps are so serious and few jobs are so difficult that they cannot be overcome and mastered by men and women whose hearts are bent on providing a respectable and independent life for themselves.

This must have been the attitude of 23-year-old John W. Sexton of Winston, Ga., who was nearly sidelined by a heart condition and arthritis. After completing high school studies in Douglasville, Ga., he was accepted as a client of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

Rheumatic fever had attacked Sexton at the age of 13 and left him with a heart ailment. Arthritis soon struck. The two-year grind in the Vocational Rehabilitation program was not easy, but he was determined to make it.

THE ROAD BACK

When he was ready to begin the long road back to qualifying himself to hold a gainful occupation, he was given a battery of aptitude tests. Sexton showed high mechanical aptitude and demonstrated an intense like for electronics. Almost a year of training followed before he was given on-the-job training.

Sexton excelled here, too. One of his instructors, C. A. Robinson, now heading a local radio and television repair service, still remembers him as the handicapped young man "with an excellent future."

NOW IN CHICAGO

Sexton is in Chicago now where he is reportedly working for an electronics firm. His stint in vocational rehabilitation is paying off.

Last year the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation paid off for 5,326 handicapped persons and earned national recognition for having helped the second largest number of persons in proportion to population. A total operating budget of some $3 million was necessary for this feat, and officials say the cost of operation is continually rising. In previous years the state has led the nation in rehabilitating the greatest number of handicapped persons.

Although many clients are sent to professional schools for training, two agencies for rehabilitation are operated directly by the division. These are schools for blind and for deaf youngsters throughout the state. A unit of the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon offers academic and vocational courses for more than 100 Negro children. Established in 1881 under a charitable program, the Negro school was rebuilt in 1953 with state and federal funds and incorporated under the vocational rehabilitation program.

THE STATE SCHOOL

The Georgia School for the Negro Deaf is located about a mile from Cave Spring, the site of the main campus for white students. It provides training for about 125 students.

Deaf and blind adults who qualify under the Vocational Rehabilitation program are sent to professional schools which train them to hold gainful employment. Such an institution is the Metropolitan Atlanta Association for the Blind. Headed by Dr. P. J. Woods, this organization is paid tuition by the state to train many of its Negro clients.

Of the 900,000 persons rehabilitated by the Georgia agency by the end of 1957, many entered various profitable occupations in practically every field of endeavor. Employers have learned that hiring the handicapped is good business.

The Georgia program, started in 1920, is headed by A. P. Jarrell and operates under the Georgia Department of Education which also conducts a Vocational Education program.

Persons interested in getting information concerning the vocational rehabilitation program should contact the Atlanta Office of the Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 1430 W. Peachtree St., N.W.

Monthly Checks Larger

Cases Of Dependent Children But Payments Reach All Time Less, High

The average number of monthly Aid to Dependent Children cases in Fulton County has taken a substantial downward turn since 1952 while average monthly payments to ADC clients have reached an all-time high.

This is shown in the 1957 statistical report prepared by the Fulton County Department of Public Welfare which handles ADC and several other welfare categories.

In 1952, each month there were about 2,920 persons receiving a total of $151,675.50. Although the total monthly welfare outlay was only $143,127.08 in 1957, increased monthly payments per case could be made because of the drop to only 1,836 ADC cases served each month.

With the passage of the Georgia Welfare Reorganization Act in 1937, the Fulton Welfare Department started with only 89 ADC cases to serve. This number increased until an all-time high of 2,920 was reached in 1952. Since 1952, the average number of monthly ADC cases has been gradually dropping, and 1,836 were served last year, representing an increase of two cases over 1956.

Whereas in 1952, each ADC client was given an average monthly check of $53.30, each averaged about $80.77 per month in 1957. These grants have more than doubled since the program started 20 years ago.

ADC represents the second largest category of welfare served by the Fulton department. The Old Age Assistance program has always had the greatest monthly and annual expenditures and number of clients.

Last year four and a half million dollars were spent on clients in the Old Age Assistance program while the ADC program spent a little over one and a half million dollars.

ADC is important, however, because it covers an area which has plagued welfare officials, juvenile authorities and the public at large. Not only has there been a big problem in providing for the welfare of illegitimate children, but the welfare department has also had to provide for youngsters abandoned by their parents.

Fulton County welfare officials explain the decrease in ADC cases between 1952 and 1957 is the result of more restrictive rules laid down by the State Department of Welfare with regard to eligibility for ADC grants.

Another reason listed in the increase in the number of payments through Social Security to children whose parents are dead. And still a third reason is the constant rehabilitation work of the department. Underlying all of these answers to the marked drop is the presence of a more educated public, particularly with regard to welfare problems and burdens.

The other major divisions of the Fulton Welfare Department are Old Age Assistance, Aid to Blind, Aid to Disabled, General Assistance and a Children's Division.

Monday At Mt. Zion; Tuesday At W. Hunter; Big Attendance Urged

The Citizens Committee under the leadership of the ministers of the City of Atlanta has scheduled two mass meetings—one on Monday night, March 10 at 8 o'clock at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 137 Boulevard, N. E., Rev. E. R. Searcy, pastor; and the other one on Tuesday night, March 11 at 8 o'clock, at West Hunter Baptist Church, 775 Hunter St., N. W., Rev. A. Franklin Fisher, pastor.

The Citizens Committee under the direction of Bishop W. R. Wilkes, Rev. Wm. Holmes Borders, Rev. E. R. Searcy, Rev. H. I. Beardon, Rev. A Franklin Fisher, and Rev. E. W. McMillan, will hold these meetings for the purpose of discussing with all citizens in the affected areas, a special document which has been compiled relating to the entire Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment Program in the City of Atlanta.

MINORITY AFFECTED GREATLY

A special sub-committee, representing both Locality Committees, has been at work for a period of three weeks studying both programs and also the impact of the entire Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment Program of Atlanta. The Committee has found that more than 75 per cent of the people affected in all of these areas to be cleared or redeveloped are minority group people.

Ultimately, the program will specifically involve the mass moving of 15,000 to 20,000 families or approximately 75,000 to 100,000 people. It is of the greatest importance, the committee pointed out, that every citizen of Atlanta, every businessman, every professional worker in the City of Atlanta, understand the full implications of this gigantic program.

At both meetings, at Mt. Zion and West Hunter Churches, a detailed analysis will be given of the findings of the Sub-Committee and it is hoped that every property owner, in both affected areas, will be present or will have a representative present to either endorse or reject the findings of this committee. Nothing in the history of the City of Atlanta in the last hundred years has had more implications than will the implications of this gigantic Slum Celarance and Urban Redevelopment Program, particularly in its effects upon Negroes and for that reason the Committee is anxious that every citizen will be fullly informed concerning the total program.

Citizens Reject "Unfair" Moves In Land Clearance

Members of Locality Committees, representing Negroes affected by the Atlanta Urban Renewal Program, have served notice on city, state and federal officials that, while accepting a lawful redevelopment program as good for the community, they totally reject unlawful attempts to take advantage of Negroes.

The committees, collaborating with the over-all Citizens Committee headed by Bishop W. R. Wilkes of the Sixth Episcopal District, recently submitted a "Bill of Particulars" stating grievances and demanding consideration and action.

The groups went on record as being against the following:

"Any attempt to use the facilities of the Urban Renewal Program in an effort to promote and maintain segregation.

"Any re-use (of cleared land) that will further restrict the Negro population of Atlanta or in anywise cause them to be priced out of the re-use market.

"..... The prmotion on the part of any one large concentration of 22 housing in any one given section of the city;

"..... The City of Atlanta denying the building of houses under the 221 program of FHA on land that has been approved by FHA and is already properly zoned by the City of Atlanta.'

LUCRATIVE MARKET

Citing the Atlanta Negro housing market as "a lucrative one," the committees said "there are strong reasons to believe that some of the powerful political and financial interests have exerted behind-the-scene influences to manipulate the supply and demand of this market."

The committees also stated their job is "to ferret out these self-appointed guardians and obstructionists and expose them to the harsh light of public opinion."

Their grievances were published in a document for the mayor of Atlanta, the Board of Aldermen, the Atlanta Housing Authority "and all federal officials (state, regional and national having to do with urban renewal."

The "Bill of Particulars" also stated that "we are for urban renewal ..... provided it is administered and pursued according to the spirit and intent of the Congressional Act."

The reference was made to the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, which includes the elimination of substandard conditions caused by the overcrowding of slum and blighted areas, providing reasonable and acceptable relocation can be achieved.

INCREASE LAND AREAS

The groups are also in favor of "actions designed to increase residential land areas that will be available for minority group occupancy, within the city ....." They strongly urged that qualified Negroes be employed in all phases of the Urban Renewal Program.

Negroes are mainly affected in two of the three areas selected for urban renewal.

These are the Butler Street and University Center areas. The third project is the Washington-Rawson Streets area.

The committees pointed out several problems which have appeared in the city's renewal program. These include a lack of citizen participation, lack of public information concerning the projects and a charge that the program "does not deal with the real slums ..."

Other problems presented were in connection with the FHA 221 Program and a plan for relocation persons affected by the renewal program.

The committees averred that "Negroes represented approximately 30 per cent of the total population of Metropolitan Atlanta but are confined to approximately 1-9 to 1-7 of the land area."

Their report charged that the proposed Butler Street and University Center Projects "will involve further reduction of land available to minority groups."

This recent document was preceded by one public hearing on each of the two projects and a series of community metings. Most of the neighborhood meetings failed to yield satisfactory answers to question raised by interested citizens.

HUNDREDS ATTEND SLUM CLEARANCE MASS MEET

By JOEL W. SMITH

Hundreds of Atlanta Citizens unanimously approved the history-making document, "The Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal Program of the City of Atlanta and Its Impact on Minority Citizens," Monday night at a meeting held at Mount Zion Second Baptist Church, where Rev. E. R. Searcy is pastor.

A near-capacity crowd filled the main auditorium of the church to hear the document read by Warren U. Cochrane, a member of the Hospitality Committees, sub-committees of the Over-All Citizens Committee, headed by Bishop William Reid Wilkes, along with Rev. William Holmes Borders, Rev. Searcy, Rev. H. I. Bearden, Rev. A. Franklin Fisher and Rev. E. W. McMillan.

MEETING AT WEST HUNTER TONIGHT

Another mass meeting will be held tonight at 8 o'clock at West Hunter Baptist Church, Rev. A. Franklin Fisher, pastor. Citizens of Atlanta's westside and the University Center area will have an opportunity to hear the document.

As a result of these informative meetings and the reading of the superbly prepared document, the movement, spearheaded by prominent Atlanta churchmen and civic leaders to protect the rights of minority citizens, property - owners, against a general misuse of the slum clearance program, will gain momentum.

"NO ANTI-PROGRESS OR PROTEST MEETING"

Both Rev. Searcy, who presided over the meeting, and Bishop Wilkes pointed out Monday night that "this is not an anti-progress or protest meeting."

The "Bill of Particulars" of the document says:

"We are for Urban Renewal in the City of Atlanta provided it is administered and pursued according to the spirit and intent of the Congressional Act (The Housing Act of 1949)."

Mr. Cochrane stressed Section 105 of this Act which reads:

"There will be a feasible method for the temporary relocation of the families displaced from the urban renewal area, and that there are or are being provided, in the urban renewal area, or in other areas not generally less desirable in regard to public utilities and public and commercial facilities and at rents or prices within the financial means of the families displaced from the urban renewal area, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings equal in number to the number of available to such displaced families and reasonably accessible to their places of employment."

FIVE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

The document deals with five specific problems, beginning with the lack of citizen participation. It emphasizes that such areas as "Vine City," "Lightning" and "Butter-Milk Botton," well - known blighted areas are excluded from the program.

In direct reference to the University Center Project, the document says: "This property is now occupied by minority group families and as yet no satisfactory residential relocation land has been provided to compensate for what will be lost."

Even more significantly, Mr. Cochrane pointed out that Negroes don't have adequate living space in Atlanta now, and deplored the fact that under present plans the group will have less land for residential purposes after the redevelopment has been achieved.

Discussing the FHA 221 Housing Program, the Committee placed the responsibility on the city and urban renewal officials to make relocation areas available for Negroes within the City limits and not in the county.

Among the other speakers were Rev. M. L. King, Rev. Borders and Q. V. Williamsson.

Slum Plan Not Halted By NAACP

Atlanta's slum clearance program won't be affected by a NAACP resolution that asked that it be blocked, the Federal Urban Renewal Office here said Tuesday.

A. F. Smith, assistant urban renewal director, said "Our study will be based solely on the plans submitted and will not be affected by any outside actions."

Smith said the federal office is currently revising two or three giant slum clearance projects in the city.

LEGAL BASE

"As yet we have not reached the stage of saying whether the plans will receive approval or not," Smith said, "but the decision will be based only on whether the projects meet the legal requirements."

The local NAACP chapter sent federal authorities here and in Washington a resolution urging they deny approval of the city's present multimillion-dollar program.

The NAACP resolution said the city's worst slum areas are not included in the program and that the program overlooks local problems caused by segregation.

NOT MAJORITY

Mayor Hartsfield, who said the local program "will go forward, unless the local president of the NAACP has more power in Washington than in Atlanta," said the NAACP move "does not represent the opinion of the majority of the Negroes here."

The mayor said he appointed three Negro members to a citizens' advisory committee on urban renewal and that a biracial advisory committee of the Atlanta Housing Authority studied the problem before the renewal committee was appointed.

Cecil Alexander, chairman of the urban renewal committee, said the issue will be considered by the full biracial committee at a meeting at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at City Hall.

Mayor Hartsfield said two of the three proposed renewal areas were intentionally selected because they center around sections that will be cleared by Expressway connector interchanges.

Mayor Calls Board for Slum Push

By HERMAN HANCOCK

Mayor Hartsfield Thursday called a special session of the aldermanic board for 2 p.m. Friday to expedite the multi-million-dollar urban renewal program.

Triggered by newspaper editorials asserting that the program is lagging, the mayor said Friday's meeting will be for the purpose of "discovering who is responsible for any delay and to find if there is anything we can do that we are not now doing.

"I am ready to do what is needed to be done to speed up the program," he said as he interviewed Col Malcolm Jones, director of the city's urban renewal office.

"If we should pass any laws, if we can remove any roadblocks, if more planning is needed or whatever we can do, we should do," he added. "I have called aldermen, the very top echelon in our city administration, to consider all phases of urban renewal. I shall write aldermen suggesting that an open forum be held."

Jones was unwrapping a plaque presented by Look magazine commending Atlanta and eight other cities for urban renewal progress.

Cecil Alexander and the citizens advisory committee on renewal of which he is chairman met for almost four hours Thursday. Under prodding by Hartsfield, Jones named persons as placing obstacles in the path of renewal.

NAMES MAYOR

Among those named were:

1. Hartsfield, who said he signed a resolution stopping issuance of R-5 building permits for some seven square miles in southeast Atlanta after it had been passed by aldermen at the request of Ald. Milton Farris. He said he did not know all the details. Farris has announced he is ready to turn a part of the area loose for 221 houses.

2. Ald. Charlie Leftwich of the fourth ward, who elicited a promise to bar erection of type 221 houses on Keystone drive, SE.

3. Former Ald. Lester Hardy, Emory Crenshaw and Guy Dunn, representing the Fourth Ward Citizens Zoning Committee, who attacked successfully the placing of type 221 houses.

EXCLUSIVE DRIVE

Leftwich explained he had agreed to erection of Type 221 homes in the Keystone drive area, but acceded to demands that they not be built on Keystone itself.

As chairman of the parks committee, Leftwich said he objected to paying more for land on which to construct a park in the Butler street renewal area than developers would pay.

Jones reported threatening telephone calls and related that at one time a funeral parlor ambulance was dispatched to his home asking for his body.

1,091 HOUSES

The program director said permits have been issued for construction of 610 Negro and 481 white 221 houses and more are in the mill. The committee approved a schedule for completion of all surveys, studies and other requirements of federal agencies to comply with the Dec. 15 deadline.

The committee adopted a resolution calling on public officials for understanding, asking that present boundaries be accepted as the first step in a five-year program, and for expansion of the planning department.

T. M. Alexander, representing the over-all citizens committee and the locality committees for Butler street and University Center Negro renewal and rehabilitation projects, read a lengthy statement reiterating objections to the scope of renewal and lack of Negro participation in planning. It also charged that segregation had been injected into the program by "certain aldermen and the city planning commission."

"We should find where the roadblocks are," Hartsfield asserted in demanding that names be named. "The sooner we bring this entire matter out in the open, the better for the program. If the mayor is remiss, let's name him."

Think On These Things

The slum clearance urge all over the country at least has invited attention to the wretched living conditions of thousands who by no stretch or dimension contributed to this their low estate. Children,—innocent beings, who had no part in the selection of their parents, their environs or the low economic standards they inherited, have been woefully penalized and cramped, soul and body, in the hovels their parents' earning powers afforded.

Many who dwell in luxury and complacent ease, doubtless, are alarmed over where and how humans exist in less than half hour's drive from where they live.

The contention that slum characters would find another slum when routed from their present slum is a myth that exploded in the record of good housekeeping and decent environs noted in the new housing projects.

Not only the children are undersold many of these adults, forced to take up quarters, in time have been good housekeepers and home lovers. Some of them came up from the farms where they not only had modern homes, but spacious lawns where they nurtured flowers, shrubbery and grass just as many city dwellers do. This has been demonstrated by some whose good fortune afforded means for locating a home. Their rock gardens, fish lakes and enclosures would further emphasize "there is more in the man than in the land."

Man was not meant for slums; he should have opportunities and advantages enjoyed by others.

The settlements around Thomasville and Rockdale Park communities, under discussion as outlets for the resettlement of those who will be affected in the Urban Renewal program will perhaps be the new locale of many well deserving misplaced people.

Now is the appropriate time for those interested in holding on to some of our historic landmarks to get in on this ground floor of redevelopment and do as others are doing, in getting government funds to aid some of our people to be returned to some of the areas where they now live after those areas are redeveloped.

There would not be any point in wasting energies trying to forestall something that inevitably will come. The point here is, that we make the most of it.

A little organization and planning will put the ball to rolling.

Think on these things. Our leadership in the financial business and professional fields should take steps and provide the necessary initiative to implement the program of retaining as much as possible of the land area we now occupy.

Slums to Skyscrapers?

Atlanta's Planners Look to the Future

By GENE BRITTON

The present heart of downtown Atlanta within a few years may be part of a vast panorama of tall towers stretching toward the sky as the futuristic dreams of the city's architects and planners come true.

Already on paper are the modernistic sketches of streamlined office buildings, cultural centers, striking and simply-designed industrial plants, towering apartment buildings, stores and shops that will accommodate and be convenient to thousands of tomorrow's customers.

Most of these new structures will stand where some of Atlanta's worst slums now encircle the downtown business district.

Basically, the major determining point in whether the dreams for Atlanta's future become realities is whether or not the slums can be cleared. Much of the planned redevelopment will take place within present approved urban renewal areas.

Atlanta planners, both official and unofficial, have been at work drawing up the perspectives for the future of the downtown and near downtown areas for years. Their work has resulted in some astounding blueprints for what the areas may look like once urban renewal starts rolling in full force.

The preliminary planning report for the Butler street urban renewal area points up some of the most advanced and daring thinking that has been done in regard to re-use of close-in land, which is now cluttered with slums.

The report has been adopted by the Board of Aldermen and submitted to the federal government for approval.

The area considered by the planners in making the report lies within the "Inner Loop" of Central Atlanta and is regarded as an integral part of the Central Business District.

In the report, the planners have given consideration to a large number of possibilities for future building, including:

DEVELOPMENT of new commercial, retail, transportation and parking facilities over the railroad air rights on the west side of the business district.

EXPANSION of Georgia State College, including the possible development of cultural facilities around a symphony hall in connection with the college.

DEVELOPMENT of an expanded health center around Grady Hospital.

CONSTRUCTION of a number of modern new public buildings including a new city jail, a merchandise mart and a civic organizations building.

EXPANSION of transient lodging facilities (hotels and motels) in the near-downtown area where they would be accessible to all central facilities, but also close to expressway ramps.

CONSTRUCTION of "high rise" (skyscraper type) apartment buildings in the central area, particularly for downtown white-collar employes and higher-income families seeking and willing to pay for more expensive, close-in residences.

CREATION of private clubs; transportation facilities; park areas for downtown office workers, shopping and transients, and abundant auto parking facilities.

The Butler Street project area was regarded as ideal for near-in residential development, since it is near major office buildings, retail shops, entertainment facilities and eating places on Peachtree.

The planners also agreed that the project area is well suited for two main types of office buildings: large headquarters facilities with additional floors of general office space and professional buildings for a complement of specialized types of occupancy (doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, etc.).

"The physical design (of the area) would concentrate housing in the northern part of the project area and office buildings in the south," the planners pointed out. "This would give the new housing the advantage of expressway open space plus direct access to Peachtree shops and places of entertainment. It would put the office buildings close to existing office concentration around Five Points."

DRAWING SHOWS FUTURE APARTMENT DWELLING DEVELOPMENT

Robert & Co. Sketch of Irwin Street (Left) and Auburn Avenue at Expressway

Slum Picture Is Bleak Unless City Moves Fast

By GENE BRITTON

Thousands of Atlanta youngsters face bleak prospects for the future unless the city takes fast action in its slum-clearance program.

A way must be found to solve the big problems threatening urban renewal. All factions cannot be satisfied or even appeased. The city has the job of finding the best solutions for all concerned.

The main thing is action. Atlanta is up to its ears in plans. Professional and amateur planners alike have been planning for years. So far, that's as far as it has gone.

The long planning, of course, has been essential. Most of it has been good. Most of it has been attacked at one time or another by one group or another.

The planners in many instances have come up with the answers to many objections raised.

For example, a howl went up from small businesses which are dependent on slum communities within urban renewal areas when the planners announced they expected to tear down the slum dwellings.

How will we live between the time you tear down the slums and the time new residences take their places back in the cleared areas, the businessmen asked.

The planners have the answer to a logical question. They will divide each of the project areas into relatively small tracts. One tract will be cleared of slum buildings and new buildings put back in their place before the developers move on to the next tract.

But there are still countless problems that have not been solved.

What is the best way for relocating thousands of Negro and white families that will be displaced by slum clearance?

How can public support be aroused for the prime goal of ridding the city of slums in face of the diverse objectives of opposing factions?

What is the answer to those who say the approved urban renewal areas do not represent the worse slums?

What of the contention that there's no point in rehabilitating whole sections of town unless the people who live in those sections are also rehabilitated?

Atlanta will have to come up with the answers fast. The federal government, whose backing is almost essential if slums are ever to be cleared, has already served notice that it will cancel its commitments for all projects for which plans have not been submitted "in complete and acceptable form" by Dec. 15.

Some of the answers may be learned from other cities that have licked the same or similar problems. Some will have to be worked out without outside help.

But there must be action, fast, effective and decisive, if there is to be hope for the children of the slums.

NEW HAVEN LESSONS

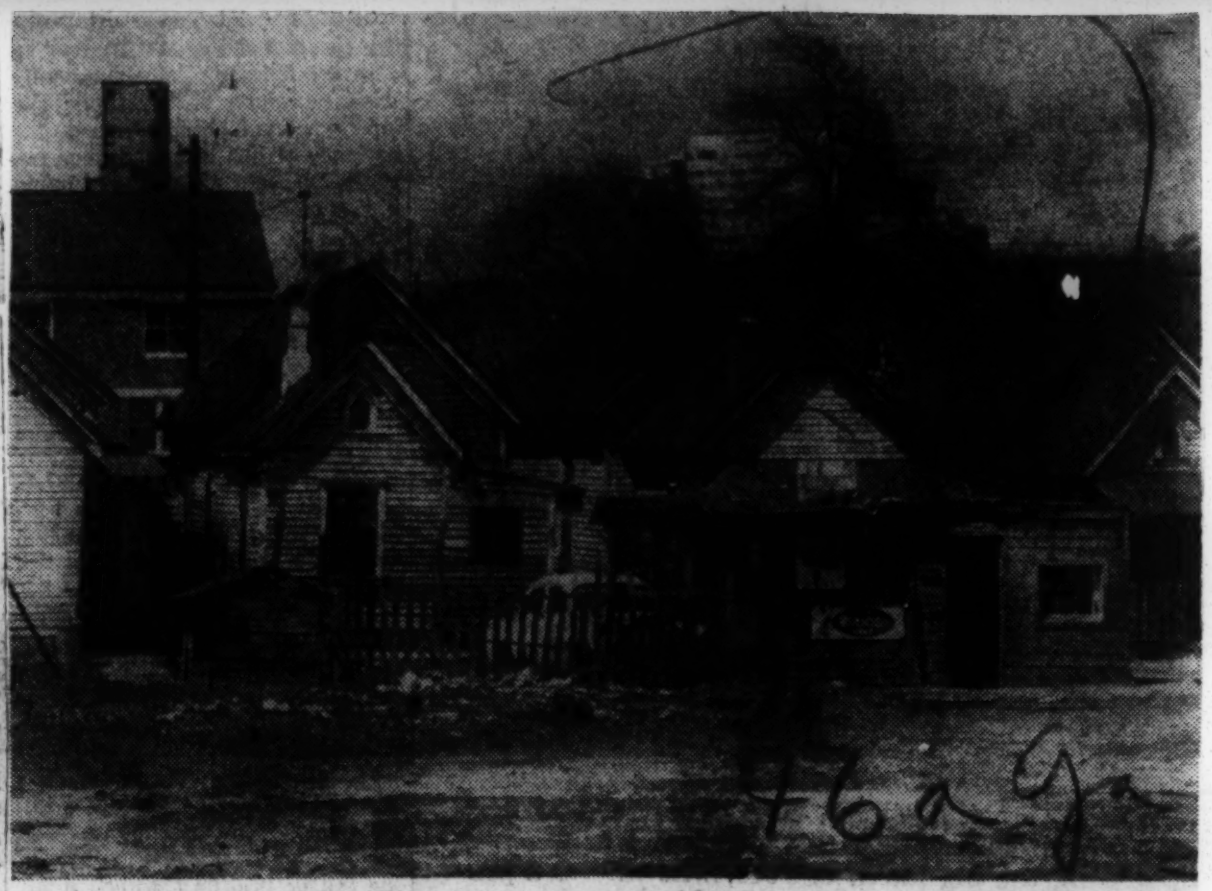
Atlanta can learn much from New Haven, Conn., a national leader in redevelopment.

Atlanta's Mayor Hartsfield has contended that this city's problems are different from New Haven's, that New Haven's mayor has more executive powers than he does for pushing the program through and that there is a greater concentration of wealth in the New Haven area than in the Atlanta area.

Yet New Haven's problems were as real in New Haven as Atlanta's are in Atlanta.

The New England city, home of Yale University, called a conference recently to talk about redevelopment problems that most cities are having in one degree or another.

Some of the problems were, as Mayor Hartsfield said, different from Atlanta's. But many of them —including a lack of wholehearted public and official support —had been similar.



Staff Photo—Guy Haye

THESE HOVELS CAN BE WIPED OUT IF PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED

Modern New Grady Hospital in Background Shows What Atlanta Can Do

WORK IN NEW HAVEN

In the relocation phase of urban renewal, New Haven has successfully found new homes for hundreds of families displaced through slum clearance. Many of the families went into public housing. The city also established a relocation staff to find homes out in the community for many more. So well had the public been sold on the need for doing away with slums that scores of rentals were found for former slum dwellers in established, "better class" neighborhoods.

A smaller town than Atlanta, New Haven (population 165,000) has not relied on low cost, long-term mortgaged relocation houses which may be built under Title 221 of the National Housing Act. Atlanta planners have recommended the "221" single-family houses as the best answer to local relocation. Much opposition has been raised, primarily from neighborhood groups exerting pressure on their aldermen.

Although there is a considerable difference in relocation problems in Atlanta and New Haven, one New Haven official had some pointers on the subject.

'NO CALLAUSNESS'

"Relocation can hurt your program badly," warned Ralph Taylor, director of the New Haven Redevelopment Agency. "One of the main things to avoid is treating people callously."

Relocate systematically, he advised, at a rate of 50 or more families a month. He said the city must look at its housing supply intelligently, determine its nature and how much is available and increase it (as Atlanta proposes to do with "221" houses) if necessary at income levels where it is needed.

He also suggested that a relocation staff keep constant check on normal rental and purchase market turnover.

Taylor also said urban renewal officials should be careful of public relations.

Gordon Sweet, executive director of the New Haven Citizens Action Commission, emphasized that point.

GET WORD ACROSS

"Use all the media at your disposal to get your message to your townspeople," he advised the visiting officials. "Unless the people know what you're doing and are convinced it's for everybody's good, you're not going to have a program."

Sweet also advocated a full-time, paid staff for the citizens' advisory group. He said it is a "must" for an efficient urban renewal operation. Atlanta's nine-man Citizens Advisory Committee operates completely without city funds.

Sweet's group has subcommittees which keep constant check on New Haven's needs and developments in recreation, schools, business relocation and other areas affected by the redevelopment program.

ACTION NEEDED

James W. Rouse, president of a planning firm in Baltimore, pointed out at the conference that any city can set a slum clearance program in motion if it wants to and is willing to get behind it.

But he warned that regardless of how much planning is done and how much a city learns about techniques involved in slum clearance, it has nothing until the city officials and the city's citizens are able to get down to action.

"There's often a great gap between knowledge and performance," he said. "It must be closed."

Atlanta can't us all New Haven has to offer in the way of advice, of course: But much of it can be used to Atlanta's advantage. In the final analysis, the important thing in Atlanta is getting the plans off the drawing boards and into operation.

Simon, Williamson, Richardson Named To Urban Renewal Board

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 1-18-58 P

46a Ga

Mayor Hartsfield Friday named Atlanta's nine-man Citizens' Advisory Board in connection with the giant Urban Renewal Development program. Three of the members are Negro citizens, fulfilling requirements that all segments of the population be represented in the program.

E. L. Simon, superintendent of agencies of Atlanta Life Insurance Company; Q. V. Williamson, president of Empire Real Estate Board, and Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, were named to the board along with the following white citizens:

Cecil Alexander, architect who will serve as board chairman; Mrs. John S. Knox, business woman; Gordon Jones, executive vice president of Fulton National Bank; Mrs. Maymie Jones, president of the Atlanta Women's Chamber of Commerce; Ivan Allen Jr., vice chairman of the board of Ivan Allen Co., and James Moore, president of Atlanta building and construction trades.

Carver Community Building To Be Dedicated Today

Atlanta Ga. Jan 1958

Dedication ceremonies will be held this afternoon for the George Washington Carver Activities Building located on Wilcox Street in Carver Community. The program will get underway at 4 p.m.

This modern building has a unit especially designed for Child Care. The Nursery will be operated by the Gate City Day Nursery Association and care for children ages 3, 4, and 5 years. The doors are opened from 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is the first time this type of service has been available to the South Atlanta Community.

Another unit houses an auditorium with a seating capacity of 300 as well as club rooms, showers lockers etc., for use in connection with activities.

A "Housewives Fair" has been the highlight of the colorful ceremonies being conducted. A special attraction was a Cooking School conducted on Thursday evening by Mrs. Gladys Powell, Home Economist, Atlanta Gas Company. A Baking Contest climaxed this phase of the activity with prizes being awarded. On Saturday, January 11 the building was invaded by squealing, happy youngsters who were treated to a party complete with rides on live ponies.

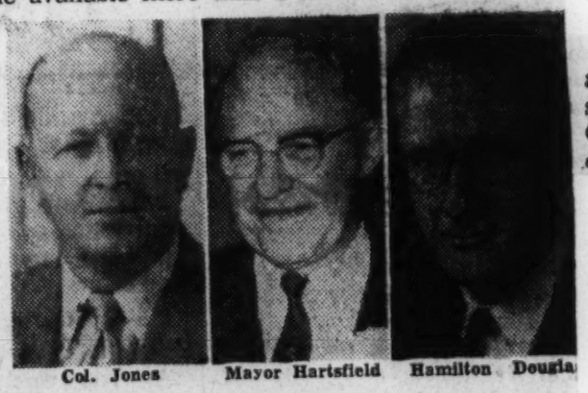
The public is invited to come out and share in these services today which are being conducted by the Tenant Association and the Management of Carver Community.

URBAN RENEWAL PLAN ON PRESS GALLERY

Constitution A.P. & U.P.I.

The U.S. government has set aside $12,000,000 in federal funds to aid Atlanta in three major urban renewal projects. City bond funds have made available more than a million dollars for the work.

If the projects are to go forward, final approval of plans for razing the three slum areas and for relocating several thousand families in low-rent housing must be completed by Dec. 15.



Col. Jones Mayor Hartsfield Hamilton Douglas

Atlanta's Mayor William B. Hartsfield, Col. Malcolm Jones, head of the department of urban renewal, and Alderman Hamilton Douglas Jr., chairman of the Aldermanic Board Urban Renewal Committee, will be guests on The Atlanta Constitution public service program Press Gallery this afternoon at 12:30, WSB-TV, Channel 2.

They will discuss the progress and problems facing the city in working out details of the program.

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Savannah public housing suit again in U.S. co...

46a Housing

Ga.

NEW ORLEANS — The Savannah (Ga.) public housing suit—involving racial segregation in Federally aided public housing — was argued again Thursday before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth District.

Ltr. Opinion 10-16-58

This is one of the first cases in which the Public Housing Administration has been joined as a defendant. Also named is the Savannah Housing Authority.

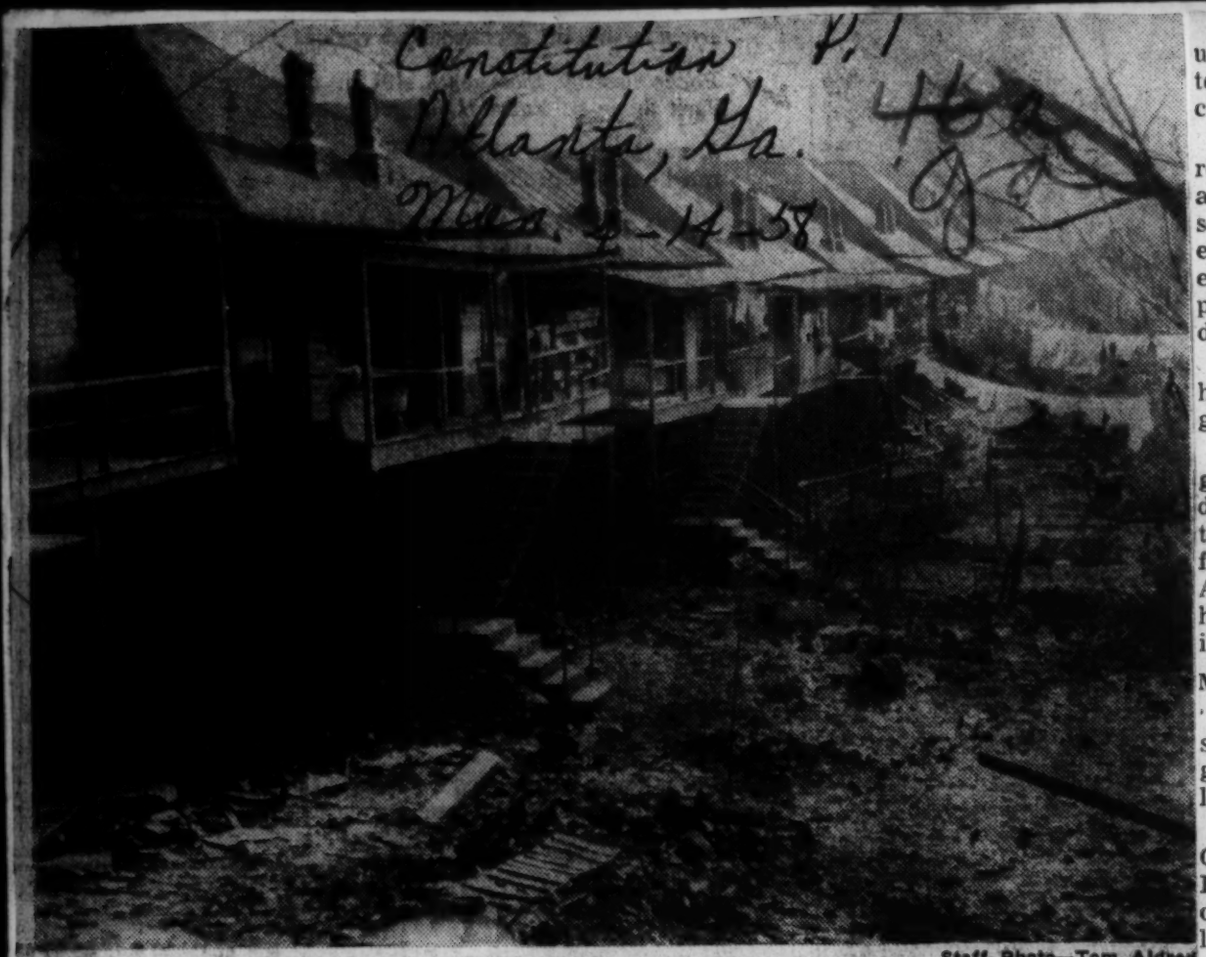
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund attorneys are seeking to enjoin the use of Federal funds for segregated projects or racial segregation. The suit was instituted on behalf of 18 colored families in 1954.

* * *

ORIGINALLY FILED in U.S. District Court for Southern Georgia on May 20, 1954, the suit was dismissed on a motion of the defendants on Oct. 21, 1955. Attorneys for the plaintiffs appealed, and on Nov. 30, 1956, the action was sent back to the District Court for trial. Following a trial on its merits, the District Court once again dismissed the case.

Representing the plaintiffs are Thurgood Marshall, and Constance Baker Motley of New York and A. T. Walden of Atlanta.

Questioning them will be George Boswell, Atlanta Constitution associate editor, and Gene Britton, Constitution staff writer whose series on urban renewal begins today in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution. Moderator for the discussion will be Ralph McGill, editor of The Atlanta Constitution.



Staff Photo—Tom Aldred

CROWDED ROWS OF DRAB HOUSES ARE TARGET OF URBAN RENEWAL

There's Little Evidence of Springtime Here, in Contrast to Other Green, Flowering Sections

Prejudice and Dragging of Heels Delay Atlanta's Slum Clearance

BY GENE BRITTON

The editor of The Atlanta Constitution once addressed a remark to a tough old Civil War general who had burned this city to ashes.

"I want to say to General Sherman," the editor said, "that from the ashes he left us in 1864, we have raised a brave and beautiful city; that somehow or other we have caught the sunshine in the bricks and mortar of our homes and have builded therein not one ignoble prejudice or memory."

The editor was Henry W. Grady, speaking 20 years after Sherman's march through Georgia.

A drive through "Buttermilk Bottom," down certain sections of Pryor street or a dozen other areas of Atlanta where human beings are living in hovels makes one wonder where the city has gone wrong in keeping faith with Editor Grady's spirit of optimism.

Hovels or Hope?

In too many places, the bricks he spoke of are crumbling. The sunshine has darkened.

The "ignoble prejudice" the editor said was missing has popped up like a jumping jack countless times in the last few months in conferences and discussions where objections to the urban renewal program have been aired.

Slum clearance has received glowing lip service in the mayor's office, the council rooms of the Board of Aldermen and in public meetings.

But the fact remains that Atlanta's urban renewal program is still in the planning stages. While New Haven, Conn., for example—where tremendous strides have been made through aggressive leadership and wide public support—has pushed through with its program, an estimated one-third of Atlanta's dwelling places fall in the substandard category.

Urban renewal is a dangerous monster with many cautious politicians. Although it would probably be difficult to find a dozen Atlantans who would not say they favored elimination of slums, urban redevelopment in many respects is as politically unpopular here as prohibition of orange juice would be in Florida.

Yet all the experts agree that urban renewal is the best solution to the slum menace that has ever come along.

E. Bruce Wedge, regional urban renewal director of the Housing and Home Finance Agency here, said Atlanta has one of the greatest opportunities any city has ever had in that it can tie its planning in with the Expressway development.

But he warned Atlantans will have to work for it and work together.

"The length of time it takes to get an urban renewal project under way depends on how long it takes to get it understood and fully supported by the community. Atlanta can have a program. It has all the prerequisites, including a fast rate of growth."

MAJOR PROBLEM

One Atlanta planning expert said an early lack of working together is one of the major problems besetting the program now.

"We got off to a slow start," Cy Gordy of the Central Atlanta Improvement Assn. said. "Everyone was dragging his heels, largely through a lack of understanding of who was supposed to do what."

He added that Mayor Hartsfield put off by about two years too long the appointing of a citizens advisory group to help work things out on the community level. Atlanta's Citizens Advisory Committee was not named until January of this year.

HOW IT WORKS

Basically, the urban renewal program works like this:

The city, through purchase or condemnation, acquires the blighted land areas. It sells the land to private enterprise for redevelopment under contract specifications. Once the slums are gone, clean new buildings rise up in their place.

The federal government pays two thirds of the amount of money the city loses between what it spends for acquiring the land and reselling it to private developers. The city must bear one third of the cost. Uncle Sam has set aside $12,000,000 for its part of Atlanta's program. The city has voted bonds for $1,500,000 as the initial part of its share.

WORKABLE PLAN

To be entitled to federal aid in the first place, the city prepares a workable program, showing what it plans to do, for submission to the government. Preliminary and final planning stages must ensue before the money is finally turned loose in Washington and the actual tearing down of the old buildings begins.

Mayor Hartsfield last week said he thought Atlanta will "wallow through" and eventually get its urban renewal program into physical action.

But at this point, the city has only gotten through the preliminary planning stages on two of its three approved projects. On the third, the Housing Authority is trying to get its preliminary planning report ready to submit in May.

THREE PROJECTS

(Atlanta's three projects include the Butler Street area and the University Center area, for which plans have been submitted, and the Rawson Street area for which plans are being prepared.)

Mayor Hartsfield also gave as one reason for the city's slow progress in redevelopment, "We've only been in the redevelopment business" since bonds were voted last May.

Actually, the first redevelopment program was begun as early as 1952 with the ill-fated McDaniel Street project.

The first distant and prophetic rumblings of discord in the present program were heard in the fall of 1952 when property owners in the McDaniel area went to court to injoin the city from carrying out its plans.

COURT RULING

They won. The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled the law under which the city was operating unconstitutional.

But the state constitution was amended and a new law passed.

Atlanta completed its workable program in May, 1957. The plan called for the first "visible structural work on urban renewal projects in the city" to be under way by July 1, 1958.

The "visible structural work" still seems a long way off. Not even the slum dwellings have as yet been torn down.

REST OF YEAR

M. B. Satterfield, director of the Atlanta Housing Authority, said several days ago it will take, "as it appears now," the rest of this year to get the plans readied, the final okay from Washington and the program actually underway.

But a letter from Washington dated March 28 put a burr under the saddle.

It came only a day or so after a leading Atlanta businessman who said he is fully behind urban renewal declared:

"I think the danger of losing the program has been overrated. Needing the boost against recession as we do, I don't think just because we fail to meet some specific deadline, Washington will slam the door on us."

Washington plans to do just that.

NEW POLICY

The national Urban Renewal Commissioner, R. L. Steiner, announced in the letter a new policy to wed out the stragglers and set a deadline of Dec. 15, for getting the final plans and applications submitted.

If Atlanta doesn't make it under the wire, the federal committment of $12,000,000 will be wiped out.

Years of work and pushing and hope will have been in vain. It is not likely that the city could go it alone, considering the difficulties it is experiencing even with strong federal backing.

Thousands of Atlanta families would be left in the filth of the slums. The "sunshine" Henry Grady spoke so pridefully of might well be snuffed out permanently. Millions of dollars needed to boost the economy of this area would be lost.

"I think we'll make it," said Malcolm Jones, head of the city's urban renewal department. "We've got to."

NEGRO SHACKS VANISH

Atlanta Provides Housing Answer

BY AL RUETTINER

ATLANTA (UPI)—A Negro can stand at a certain spot in Atlanta and as far as his eye can see there is space for him to live.

That's perhaps the most significant victory yet for the Negro in this Deep South Metropolis. It was won with very little disturbance and with not a little cooperation from the white citizenry.

Gone are the days when the only place a Negro of average means could find to live here was a tumble-down shack, a cracked-plaster walkup apartment or in the kind of squalid settlement that has been labeled since Reconstruction times as "nigger town".

There are several modern all-Negro housing developments in Atlanta, a city where one out of three residents is colored. By far the most impressive lies in a long corridor bounded on one side by a railroad and on the other by a trunk highway. It begins near the heart of the city and sweeps west for many miles to the Chattahoochee River.

ROOM FOR EXPANSION

At least 1,000 undeveloped acres lie in the rolling and beautifully-wooded suburban countryside where there's room for almost unlimited real estate expansion.

Homes for Negroes, many in the $20,000-$50,000 class, already are showing up on the winding, tree-lined streets.

City planners, officials and organizations are getting much of the credit for this condition, peacefully arrived at for the most part. But it could not have been accomplished without the unfolding of a neighborhood drama in a little subdivision of white homes then known as Collier Heights.

Collier Heights was developed in the days of scarce housing following World War II in a raw area near the western rim of the city. Buying the modest homes in the $6,000-$10,000 class were returning GIs, city employes and young businessmen — a cross-section of just about any American middle class suburb.

The thing about Collier Heights that no one in the neighborhood realized at the time was that it lay astride the corridor through which the city's expanding Negro population was moving. Separated from the Negro section by main traffic arteries, no one had given the racial problem a thought.

Then one spring day in 1954 a neighbor came home to Collier Heights and put out the call for an urgent community meeting. The news he gave his friends was a shocker. He had stumbled on evidence that Negroes had bought 400 acres of undeveloped land and had them surrounded.

What happens when that kind of news hits a southern community?

At first there was anger and bitterness — a bit of panic among widows and elderly families. After heated discussion, it was suggested that the entire neighborhood agree to sell their homes to Negroes. The argument was two-fold—such a move would protect property values and it would reduce racial tension by opening up to Negroes an unlimited area for home building.

On the first vote a bare majority approved the drastic step. Community leaders felt that was not sufficient. Real trouble was feared with opinion so sharply divided. But gradually the enthusiasm for selling grew stronger.

The big job during that period was to keep someone from jumping the gun and selling too soon. It was realized that such "block-busting" tactics could lead to violence and also to a rapid breakdown of property values.

Although there were severe pressures from all sides in those tense days, there never was an incident inside Collier Heights. One big factor was a carefully-planned program of keeping everyone honestly informed—and informed — and everyone absolutely calm. Group captains were assigned eight homes each among the 135 houses in the section. They made house-to-house contacts on progress and problems.

Finally the vote to sell was up to 87 per cent and at that point the Collier Heights neighbors agreed to put their homes on the market to Negroes. Again old fashioned community spirit came into play.

Some owners objected to showing their houses to Negro applicants. Neighbors did the job for them. A number of families moved out, leaving homes vacant and lawns unkept. Such eyesores were removed by others.

Tension grew anew as Negroes swept into the community to make purchases. In nearby fringe areas occupied by whites, several tried to sell individually to Negroes. Bombings resulted that could be clearly heard in still peaceful Collier Heights.

Within three months, it was all over and Negroes were the new owners of Collier Heights. This was the signal for immediate expansion of the undeveloped area to the west. Today the sound of hammer and saw is everywhere as the section mushrooms.

Dr. Richardson, T. M. Alexander To Head Chest's Negro Division

Dr. Harry V. Richardson has been nmed General Chairman and T. M. Alexander, Co-General Chairman of the Negro Division, 1959 Tri-County Community Chest Campaign. Mrs. Geneva Haugabrooks will serve with them in an advisory capacity.

Dr. Richardson is president of Gammon Theological Seminary, past president of the Association of Methodist Theological Schools and a member of the Council of Evangelism of the Methodist Church. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Regional Council and the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Urban League.

Mr. Alexander is a well known Real Estate man and Insurance Broker. He is President of the Butler Street YMCA Board of Directors and a member of the National YMCA Board. He is a trustee of Morehouse College and Atlanta University and a prominent member of many business enterprises.

Mrs. Geneva Haugabrooks, head of Haugabrooks Funeral Home, is a veteran Community Chest Leader who is constantly identified with worthwhile ventures in the community.

OTHER DIVISION LEADERS

The following named persons will serve as leaders in the six divisions as indicated: House to House Division—Mrs. Roberta Parks, Chairman, with Dr. J. R. Canty, Co-Chairman of Cobb County, and John Shanks, Co-Chairman for DeKalb County. Clubs and Organization Division—Mrs. Olivette Allison, Chairman, and Mrs. Birdie Wallace, Co-Chairman. Labor Division—J. A. Brittain, Chairman, and J. I. Washington, Co-Chairman. Religious and Educational Division—G. L. Chandler, Sr., Chairman, with Mrs. J. S. Flipper, Rev. J. E. Garnett, Dr. Hilliard A. Bowen, M. J. Woods, Mrs. Edith Murray, Mrs. Narvie Harris, Mrs. A. Katheryn Johnson, Mrs. Erdie W. Chandler, and Bishop William R. Wilkes serving as Co-Chairman. Business Division—T. M. Alexander, Sr., Chairman, and Mrs. Eunice Cooper, Co-Chairman. Professional Division — Mrs. Johnnie Yancey, Chairman, with Mrs. J. R. Wilson, Jr., and Atty. R. E. Thomas, Jr., serving as Co-Chairman.

Algernon Black Makes Charges To Senators

NEW YORK — Charges that Federal housing programs are supporting and increasing residential segregation were made today by Algernon D. Black, chairman of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, in a statement presented to the Housing Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency. A copy of the statement was sent to each member of the Senate.

"Urban renewal developments continue to receive Federal approval and funds despite plans for new segregated housing," Mr. Black declared. "The majority of Federal public housing projects are segregated. FHA and VA continue to underwrite racially exclusive suburbs. As a result, it is the minority groups who live in substandard housing and slums."

Asserting that the United States Government is the single most important factor in the nation's housing picture, the committee called for unequivocal prohibition of segregation in all Federally - aided housing programs. "Federal assistance," the statement said, "should be conditioned on a guarantee that the accommodations will be available to all qualified persons under the same terms and conditions, without regard to race, religion or national origin."

NEW GHETTOS

Warning that the creation of new ghettos, "even though disguised as urban renewal or redevelopment," will ultimately destroy the civil rights gains of the past decade, Mr. Black told the Senate body, "The Supreme Court's public school decision is, in large measure, being rendered ineffective because of residential segregation.

"It is imprative that this nation translate its democratic philosophy into practice," Mr. Black continued. "What is more basic to the whole democratic process than man's right to seek shelter for his family, without the artificial restrictions of race, creed or national origin?"

In an analysis of the three major Federal housing programs, the NCDH reported that: (1) to date the Urban Renewal program has resulted in a net loss of 52,000 units, and almost two-thirds of the displaced families are non-white; (2) FHA continues to place the prestige and powers of the Federal Government in support of racially-restricted housing, and less than 2 per cent of the total number of new homes insured by FHA since 1949 have been available to minorities; (3) FHA continues to disburse funds for segregated projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Among its recommendations, NCDH asserted the following are essential

1. Decent and safe housing must be available to meet the specific needs of displaced families before slum clearance projects are approved.

2. A balanced program of urban renewal and public housing, including the use of open and predominantly open sites. If urban renewal is to result in any middle-income housing, the Federal subsidy should be increased over its present two-thirds of the write-down of land cost.

3. Unified relocation standards for urban renewal and public housing as well as for all other displacement by Government action, and concrete evidence of feasibility of relocation plans for taking care of total displacement by Government action.

4. An increased and revitalized public housing program, realistically related to the housing needs of low-income families, planned as a part of well-balanced and protected neighborhoods, to avoid large projects which become communities of one economic (and often racial) group.

5. Government aid for middle-income families, including low-interest and long-time direct loans for middle-income housing.

6. Provision whereby families may purchase public housing apartments cooperatively as their incomes increase, and for over-income families to remain in public housing when no decent private shelter is available.

7. Reconstitution of the Racial Relations Service on a non-partisan professional basis to provide responsible review of all programs in all headquarters and regional offices of the Housing and Home Finance Agency and its constituent agencies.

STATE HOUSING CASE WATCHED FOR RACE TEST

By HAROLD DAVIS
Atlanta Journal Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Much of the informed nation is keeping a hawk eye on the Supreme Court to see what it will do with a red-hot case involving segregation and Savannah, Ga.

For the first time, the Supreme Court may be about to decide whether public housing, supported by public money, can be rented on a segregated basis.

In Savannah, a Negro woman named Queen Cohen brought suit against the Public Housing Administration and the Housing Authority of Savannah. The authority built and is operating low-rent public housing in the city.

Queen Cohen wanted to move into an all-white public housing project. She claims that she tried to apply for admittance to the all-white facility but that local authorities told her to go and apply at a Negro project.

She brought suit.

* * *

IN SAVANNAH, a top official in the housing authority denied that segregation in public housing is "forced." He said that if a Negro were to apply, he or

Focus on THE NATION

she would be considered. He claims that Queen Cohen never actually applied.

In fact, the dispute over whether she actually made application is one of the big points on which the case seems to be turning.

Judge Richard T. Rives of the Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Queen Cohen never proved she actually made application to get into the all-white project. It seems she may have just expressed an interest in doing so without actually filling out the forms.

* * *

JUDGE RIVES also noted testimony by an official of the Savannah Housing Authority that it a Negro were to be admitted to an all-white housing project, the white people would move out.

In past years—and at present, in fact—the Federal Housing and Home Agency in Washington, which administers the housing program, has held that local customs must be respected in connection with the enforcement of the housing law. If segregation is the pattern in a given community, the agency has held, then the public housing program in that area is run segregated.

The Supreme Court is in fact being asked to say whether this agency rule is constitutional.

The high tribunal must first decide whether it will even hear Queen Cohen's case. It could hand that decision down by Dec. 15, but most likely it will be after that.

If the court decides to hear it, it will consider it on its merits. The court has been known to sidestep big issues in times past, and it possibly could render an inconclusive opinion that would leave the big issue unsettled.

It could also hand down a bullseye opinion—one that would say either that public housing may be run segregated where local custom prescribes it, or that segregated public housing is illegal the nation over.

The Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency is defending its "local custom" rule. It claims that to end segregation abruptly in public housing in the South would wreck the public housing program and undo the work of the agency.

It may come as a surprise to some Southerners, but the Justice Department is defending the agency's viewpoint and will represent it in court.

The other side—Queen Cohen's side—is being argued by Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP lawyer who was instrumental in persuading the Supreme Court to outlaw school segregation in its decision of May, 1954.

Community Relations Panel Urged

By KAY McLEOD

Mayor Hartsfield will be asked within the next two to three weeks to establish an advisory citizens' committee to further sound community relations, The Constitution learned Monday.

The proposed committee was essentially an outgrowth of a meeting some weeks ago of several civic and religious organizations.

Meanwhile, Gov.-elect Vandiver came back at those "coming out in the open and demanding that classrooms be mixed," saying: "We do not propose to be stampeded into the position where we will be forced to choose between a mixed school or no schools . . . nor will the people of Georgia mix our schools."

In the face of the demands of Atlanta clergymen that the public school be continued "consistent with the law of the nation," Vandiver reiterated that there will be no "mixed school in Georgia anywhere, at any time, at any place."

Without mentioning the Atlanta ministers' race relations manifesto released Sunday, Vandiver said:

"I would remind those who are clamoring out in the open and demanding that the races be mixed in the class rooms in the schools that the Constitution and laws of this State require that the races be separate in the schools."

He said, "there is virtually unanimous opinion among the people of the State that our laws and the Georgia Constitution should be upheld to the letter." Vandiver also said that he will recommend additional ligislation to prohibit mixed schools in Georgia anywhere, at any time, at any place . . . when the General Assembly meets in January."

The ministers' manifesto said: "Many . . . have been led to believe that through some fictitious legal device we could close our public schools and still provide for public education through tax funds. Recent developments in Arkansas and Virginia serve to make it abundantly clear that any such hope is based solely upon wishful thinking.

"The choice which confronts us now is either the end of an enforced segregation in public schools or no public schools whatever."

The petition that will be presented to Mayor Hartsfield is similar to the recommendation included in the manifesto that a citizens commission be appointed "to preserve the harmony of our community."

An informed source told The Constitution that some 14 civic and religious groups in Atlanta had officially endorsed or would take action on the request to the mayor.

The proposed petition follows in spirit and context the recommendation by the 311 Atlanta clergymen who signed the manifesto. It grew out of a meeting some weeks ago of several civic and religious organizations interested in furthering sound community relations, the source said.

The source declined to identify the groups involved.

He indicated that the petition had been developed simultaneously with the manifesto but was a separate and specific request to Mayor Hartsfield.

The Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations Monday night gave its executive committee authority to join with other groups in working for the establishment of the citizens' committee.

The council also voted funds Monday to hold public meetings, bringing in speakers to further the cause of good racial and community relations. A recommendation that persons who had worked in areas that have had some experience with desegregation be asked to speak at these metings was referred to the program committee for action.

The council reelected the Rev. Mr. Cahill, pastor of an integrated church, president for a two-year term.

Rep. Ralph McClelland said the manifesto "struck me as being the kind of calm, reasonable type of thinking that ought to go into an approach in trying to find some solution."

In yet another development here Monday the press was barred from the Atlanta Methodist Ministers Association meeting to discuss the public school issue.

A member of the association, who asked that he not be identified, said the ministers took no official action but merely discussed what course churches might have to take should the public schools be closed.

The consensus, however, was that the churches should not consent to being used as a political device to circumvent the desegregation ruling, the source added.

rban Renewal Plan's Effect On egro Community Under Attack

"silent tactics" used by up- officials regarding the effect Atlanta Urban Renew- Plan upon the Negro communi- came under heavy fire yester- from leading Negro Atlanta attended a special gathering called by the Committee on Slum Clear- and Re-Development.

the blast upon the -up schemes" was L. D. Mil- president of the Citizens Co. and co-owner of the and Yates drug store

who is also a member city's Urban Renewal Lo- Committee, said that he now any other Negro or committee has been to persuade the renewal of to honestly pinpoint what plans to do around the Ne- communities, especially the areas.

bank executive said each affected by the Renewal has the right to know the Renewal Commission to use every foot of the taken in by the re-de- ment plan.

D INSPECTION

urging a more rigid inspec- of the "schemes" of the down officials, Milton hinted that is reason to believe the plan not directly affect the Auburn business area too seriously. ever, he pointed out there may a scheme to "freeze out" Ne- businesses by removing all po- tial customers.

Milton urged all Negro citizens individually or cooperatively, to as much pressure as need- to guarantee their equal op- unity to re-purchase the clear- land.

also revealed at the heated dis- ion was an alleged "10-year" by certain "high city and ion officials" designed to Negroes out of the area town business district Boulevard, S. and from Ponce Leon Ave. to old Clark Col- campus.

CHARGED

members of the meeting that a plan to remove all roes from these areas could be a scheme to indirectly deprive Negro businessmen of a livelihood. Even if they were allowed to remain in the area, Milton blasted, "Negro business without a consumer market in the area is a futile operation."

W. S. Cannon, representative from the University Center Locality Committee, reported that all of his experiences with the uptown officials seem to suggest "a scheme to negate and water down any suggestions from Negroes regarding the needs and desires for their own areas." He suggested that verbal plans will never be effective.

"USEFULNESS"

Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church, agreed with Cannon on the uselessness of verbal suggestions to the planning officials.

He urged that the slum clearance committee formulate some definite plans for Negro areas in Atlanta and submit them as an official desire of the Negro community for the planning of officials to accept or reject. "Whatever the outcome, Borders explained, "our wishes will be recorded."

Taking the suggestion as law a committe was instructed by the chairman, Rev. E. R Searcy, to design constructive and far-reaching plans for the Negro area and submit them to the necessary officials within 10 days for study and action.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The businessmen at the meeting were appointed members of a special committe from each business area instructed to map strategy with the larger committee on Slum Clearance for a clearer understanding of the goals of the Negro community.

The entire group unanimously agreed that the city-wide slum clearance committee should continue its work in shedding light upon the effect of Atlanta's Urban Renewal Plan on Atlanta Negroes.

Savannah Mayor Outlines Program To Clear Slums

Urban Renewal Plan Urged Here By Lee Mingledorff

By OTIS PERKINS
News and Courier Staff Writer

A city, like an apple, stands in danger of decay when its core begins to spoil.

So says Savannah Mayor L. Lee Mingledorff Jr., who has been in the thick of an anti-slum program for the last two years. He says the project may soon bear fruit.

"A city," he said, "is like an apple. When a worm starts working at the core of an apple the entire fruit may rot. And when the core-city begins to deteriorate, the whole area is affected."

Two major factors in renewing dying urban areas, he said, are:

PLANS AND MONEY

1. Long-range planning.
2. Private capital.

The first of these is the most tedious, he said. It involves sound zoning and building codes, land-use maps and master street plans. And the planning must be county - wide. Every aspect regarding reuse of slum property must be outlined in full and submitted to the federal government for approval.

$1-$3 RATIO

When the planning is completed, the government will appropriate money for the project. The city pays $1 for every $3 the government spends.

"We recognized in Savannah the need for planning," he said. "We set up a 12-member Metropolitan Planning Commission, with six from the county and six from the city. Then we hired a $10,000 a year planner (the highest paid city official we have)."

SAVANNAH PLANS

Savannah's planning began in 1956. The city now has two projects about ready for the condemnation phase. One will include 500 low-cost houses for Negroes. The other will be set aside for commercial use (warehouse plat, it is called). Mingledorff said there is no problem of getting private capital. Developers are eager to get into it. The houses, to be built under urban renewal specifications, will be offered on 90 per cent government-guaranteed loans.

SLUMS CLEARED

When these slum areas are cleared, others will begin. Mingledorff said the first projects will cost about $1,750,000. The present plans eventually will affect some 6,000 persons. He estimates the first projects will take five years to complete, the remainder of the project a total of 10 years.

Mingledorff said he figured the city's cost of the total at about $100,000. The city gets credit for improvements (paving streets, installation of water and sewer systems and the like) as its share of payment.

The building codes don't stop at tearing down and rebuilding. Georgia now has a law setting minimum standards for all housing. They range from specifying the size of bedrooms (per number of occupants) to requiring plumbing, bathtubs, central heating and window screens.

"Already the city has enforced the window screen requirements. "We're now in the bathtub stage, Mingledorff said. The project, which will take several years, will eventually eliminate outside toilets (long illegal) and other health and fire hazards. The law applies to all houses, present and future.

NEGRO HOUSING

As for the new Negro housing, Mingledorff says that those unable to buy homes will necessarily be moved into public housing projects. No slum dwellers, under government rules, can be displaced to create new slums.

Mingledorff says there is no housing shortage for whites. Former white neighborhoods left to Negroes soon become slums. One of the problems is to get owners to keep up this property rather than let it develop into slum areas, he said.

To meet the threat posed by increasing slums, he added in an interview, a city administration can't be soft. Neither can it be afraid of being partial in carrying out individual projects.

"We once listened to people who demanded that we tear down every (slum-ridden) house if we tear down one; or that if we close one outdoor toilet, that we close all of them. When they demanded this, we backed down — and the program fell flat.

STEP-BY-STEP

"Now we know urban renewal can be done only on a step-by-step basis. And that's what we are doing. We may have to tear down one man's house and let another one across the street stand — at least for the time being. But we'll eventually get to it."

Mingeldorff outlined many of the mechanics of an effective urban renewal program, which he said could be applied to Charleston.

PASS AMENDMENT

"Pass your amendment," he advised. "Then pick out some obviously hopeless slum area. Clean this up. Then you can point to it and say, 'look what we've done.'" (The amendment referred to would authorize the city to buy slum property and resell it to private interests for redevelopment. It will be voted on in the November election.)

Mingeldorff said there is no quick solution to the problem of slums because "they have been growing for 100 years. And we'll have them 100 years frm now if we don't start now to clear them."

He indicated that money spent soon will return to a city in the form of taxes on higher - valued property and by cutting out "free" services now required in slum areas. He mentioned garbage collection, water and sewer services.

CITIES LEFT OUT

He said cities are "being left out" because federal and state laws have been geared to the county level. The federal urban renewal program, he added, is the first directed at cities.

"Why is it," he asked, "have cities been left out of road-paving and state financed improvements?"

He defined a city as "a group of county residents who get together to provide for themsevles, things which the county isn't providing."

With growing slums, and resultant declining property values, there has been a movement to the suburbs, he said. If the cities are made attractive again, he contends, the white population will move back to the cities. Ultimately, he said, the problem will resolve itself in union of the city and its suburbs.

Atlanta Has Answer To Negro Housing Woes, Writer Holds

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the Nation's thorniest racial problems is Negro housing. Here is the account of how an answer was found in one large Southern city.

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By AL QUETTNER

ATLANTA — (UPI) — A Negro can stand at a certain spot in Atlanta and as far as his eye can see there is space for him to live.

That's perhaps the most significant victory yet for the Negro in this Deep South metropolis. It was won with very little disturbance and with not a little cooperation from the white citizenry.

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SURROUNDED BY GROUP

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MONEY AVAILABLE

All interests agree there are several factors, not present in most southern cities, which encourage Negroes to make such progress in home ownership here.

For one thing, there is plenty of loan money for Negroes. Three big and well-heeled Negro lending institutions started providing real estate loans and broke open the market. Now they are in competition for borrowers with all the city's banks.

Another factor has been education. Such agencies as the Atlanta Urban League have persuaded Negroes to get out of their diplapidated environment and to buy new homes on new land in the suburbs at monthly payments that amount to no more than rent back in the old haunts.

Many 40-year loans are being negotiated at monthly rates of $50 to $72 for $10,000 to $15,000 homes. To pay for this proud new property, Negroes, whose average earnings here still are only $1,200 to $1,400 a year, pool the wages of husband, wife and other kin.

"If you go out in one of these new sections in the daytime," a Negro banker told me, "You probably will find very few people at home. Everybody in the family is out working."

Court Backs Segregation In Savannah Housing

SAVANNAH (AP)—The principle of voluntary segregation was approved by a federal appellate court Wednesday in a decision against integration in a Savannah public housing project.

The Fifth District U.S. Court of Appeals at New Orleans upheld a ruling by U.S. District Judge Frank M. Scarlett that Queen Cohen, Savannah Negro woman, is not entitled to admission to the Fred Wessels Homes, a white-occupied project.

In supporting the lower court, the appeals court decision said there was "no reasonably certain proof that the appellant actually desired to become a tenant in that public housing."

This apparently was in recognition of the fact that the action was brought as a test case under auspices of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

The decision also noted that "in both pleadings and the proof, governmentally enforced segregation is denied."

Then the court concluded:

"Mr. Stillwell's (secretary and executive director of the Savannah Housing Authority) testimony has been noted to the effect that, in his opinion actual segregation is essential to the success of the program of public housing. If the people involved think that such is the case and if Negroes and whites desire to maintain voluntary segregation for the common good, there is certainly no law to prevent such cooperation. Neither the fifth nor the fourteenth amendment operates positively to command integration of the races but only negatively to forbid government-enforced segregation."

in Atlanta A. T. Walden, one of the attorneys for the plaintiff, said he could reach no decision until he receives a copy of the decision but in all probability it will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Originally, the action was brought in Washington by the NAACP in behalf of 18 Savannah Negroes as an attempt to enjoin the Public Housing Administration from appropriating any funds for the Wessels project on the grounds it discriminated against Negroes. This action was lost.

Another suit then was brought in U.S. district court at Savannah by the same 18 Negroes. Scarlett dismissed this action on the pleadings without taking testimony.

This was taken to the circuit court of appeals which reversed the finding and ordered the case back to the district court for a decision on the evidence.

Urban Renewal Hearing Today At City Hall

At a meeting scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, the Atlanta Citizens Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal will hold a public hearing today aimed at requesting 1,000 additional public housing units for Negroes.

The request is based on the needs as brought out by the recent Gross repont on housing in Atlanta," according to Cecil A. Alexander, chairman of the interracial citizen's committee.

"It is evident that if the urban renewal program is to proceed, this housing need must be met," Alexander said. Public housing will take care of only those who cannot be provided for by private means. The great bulk of people being relocated will be taken care of by private enterprise."

The addition of more public housing units has been opposed by most of the city's realtors.

The Atlanta Negro Voters League will appear today in support of a housing program to aid Negroes. It is reported that 60 per cent of the alloted "221" housing has been made available to white residents, but only about 10 per cent for Negroes. The problem of obtaining land has been cited as a reason.

Tough Slum Children Deserve Decent Homes

By GENE BRITTON

Johnny is already a "mean boy." It won't be long now before he might become a full-fledged juvenile de-

Hovels or Hope

linquent.

Someday, Johnny may meet you on the street and take your money. Or he might decide to put a knife into your stomach.

Johnny has lived every one of his dirty young years within half a mile of Five Points, a few block from both City Hall and the State Capitol Building.

It's the slum district — one of them.

There are groups in Atlanta—both official and unofficial—who want to do something about Johnny. Through a program of slum clearance and urban renewal, they want to transplant Johnny and his family from their decaying surroundings into a decent, clean house and tear up the old slums s that no one else ever again will be caught up in the entanglement of them.

MANY PROBLEMS

But there are many problems dragging back Atlanta's slum clearance program. There are many diverse interest groups to be heard from and reckoned with.

Johnny and his family themselves, and their neighbors, the other slum dwellers, must be taken into account. How do they feel about the upheaval that must take place before they can be settled in decent homes?

A tour through the slum neighborhoods and talks with some of the people there bring a number of conflicting opinions. The talks bring new aspects to old problems. They also bring sullenness and suspicion.

Staff Photo—Guy Hayes

CHILD'S FORMATIVE YEARS CONFINED TO CLUTTERED NEIGHBORHOOD

Renewal Would Replace Houses Like These on Rhodes Street, NW, With Wholesome Surroundings

OWN HOMES

Many slum dwellers own their own homes within the urban renewal areas. Most of the dwellings are dirty and sagging. The screens over the windows that have screens are torn and black with years of grime. Generations of germ-carrying insects and vermin have had free run of the buildings.

But those buildings are homes and have been for years.

"I won't budge out of here," one old lady said.

"I've lived here for years," said the old man with a white beard. "Where else would I go?"

Where indeed? Relocation has long been the major headache of urban renewal planners in Atlanta. New Haven, Conn., has solved much of its relocating problems by a full-time, hard-working special staff which keeps constant check on the low-cost housing rental and purchase markets. In Birmingham, Ala., the Public Housing Authority maintains on-the-spot relocation branch offices within the urban renewal areas. The staffs are there in the neighborhoods to help iron out wrinkles in the business of finding new homes.

Both cities have handled the problem of land acquisition and relocation with firmness, even with relentlessness at times. Regardless of the objections, the end result has been a beautification of the cities and a higher standard of living for their peoples.

Many of Atlanta's slum dwellers apparently favor what's being planned here. Many are dubious, though.

"Who wouldn't want to get out of dumps like these?" said a young mother whose children were playing in the street. "But why push it? You people say all these big things are gonna' happen but whatever comes of it?"

There have been many promises. Many kinds of hope have glimmered since Atlanta became the first city in the nation to inaugurate a slum clearance program in the Techwood project during the early days of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration.

But the leader has lagged. Problems and a frequent lack of aggressive leadership in coping with them have kept urban renewal in Atlanta in the planning phases. Even the final plans frequently seem a long way off.

Meanwhile, Johnny and many others like him are growing up in a neighborhood that offers little incentive to rise above their present bent.

Down the street a young mother with a hard face smokes a cigaret and yells at the children. The youngsters are playing around a mud puddle in the narrow front yard and in the street. There is a bad odor coming from inside the house.

On the adjoining front porch, a group of small boys sit around a tough-looking young man in his 20s. He wears long sideburns and bluejeans. The boys listen admiringly as he talks and chews and spits into the yard. Attention is diverted momentarily as a white police car drives slowly down the street.

There is a loud, unspoken argument throughout the neighborhood for strong, quick action in the planning rooms a few blocks away.

Approved Amendment Calls For Bigger, Better Houses

The Planning and Zoning Committee of the Atlanta Board of Aldermen Thursday approved a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would call for bigger houses on bigger lots in the Lakewood area.

The committee's action sends the proposal made by Ald. Charlie Leftwich of the Fourth Ward to the mayor and the council for their approval.

1954 ORDINANCE

Leftwich's proposed amendment to the 1954 Zoning Ordinance calls for re-zoning of the area from R-5 to R-4 classification. This will require houses to be at least 1,000 square feet and set on lots at least 9,000 square feet.

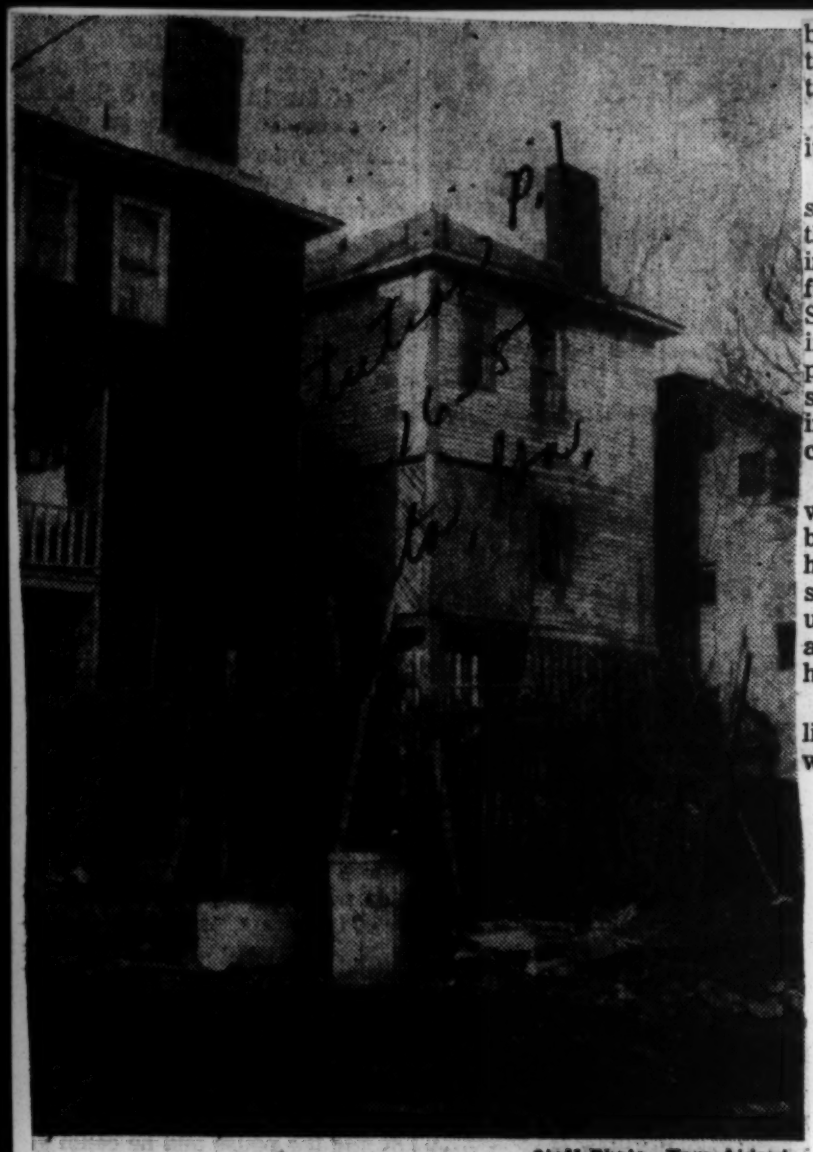
The present R-5 classification only calls for houses of at least 850 square feet on lots at least 7,500 square feet. An official summed up the proposal by describing it as a measure which would call for more expensive houses on bigger lots.

BROWNS MILL ROAD

Property affected is that fronting about 3,000 feet east and west of Gilbert Road and about 4,800 feet on the southeasterly and northeasterly sides of Brown Mill Road, beginning about 200 feet from the intersection of Gilbert and Browns Mill Road.

Before the Planning and Zoning Committee went into executive session to vote on the proposal, it heard comments for and against the measure by a number of citizens who were among several hundred persons who packed the Aldermanic City Hall were that the proposal would be aimed at halting the encroachment of Urban Renewal-sponsored "221" houses in the area. A number of such homes have already been constructed in the Lakewood area.

If approved, the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance would not affect 221 houses already in the area, but might possibly halt the construction of more relocation housing in the area.



Staff Photo—Tom Aldred

POLITICAL PRESSURE COULD RETAIN THESE

Backyard View of Slums That May Be Removed in Drive

Is Politics Wrecking Urban Renewal Goal?

By GENE BRITTON

Strong political pressures may wreck what experts have termed the greatest opportunity Atlanta has ever had to rejuvenate itself physically and economically.

Through the federally backed urban renewal program, Atlanta can take thousands of families out of the degradation of slums and give them an opportunity to live like decent human beings.

Hovels or Hope?

It can eradicate forever the eyesore buildings and remake large areas of town where present conditions constitute a heavy strain on the police and fire departments and the entire tax structure of the city.

It can give a shot in the arm of millions of dollars to the tired blood of the economy of this area through a tremendous construction program.

But political pressure threatens it all.

The federal government has reserved $12,000,000 for its part in the reclaiming of slum districts in Atlanta. It has approved plans for 5,500 low-cost houses under Section 221 of the National Housing Act to relocate those displaced by slum clearance. Construction of those houses would involve a total of $49,500,000 in circulating money.

But the private builders who would buy land from the city, build the FHA-approved "221" houses and resell them to persons displaced by urban renewal under a 40-year federal mortgage, are finding they can't fight city hall.

"It's very difficult to get political acceptance of areas in which the homes may be built,"

Renewal Officials Hear Complaints by Negroes

By GENE BRITTON

A committee of Negro leaders appearing before Atlanta urban renewal officials Wednesday expressed the fear that their people will get the short end of the deal in relocation of families displaced by slum clearance.

They also renewed their contention that approved urban renewal areas are not the worst slums in the city and repeated the charge that Negroes have not been properly represented in planning of the projects.

30 PER CENT

Heading the group which appeared before members of the Aldermanic Board's urban renewal committee, T. M. Alexander said Negroes make up about 30 per cent of Atlanta's population and live on only about one-ninth of the total land area.

"And we are losing at the rate of about 3,000 housing units a year from dilapidation expressway clearance and commercial reuse," he added.

He said Negroes are not opposing urban renewal, but, he added, "We do oppose the enslaving of our children's children by relegating them to ghettos we've spent millions of dollars and years of effort in trying to get out of."

SIX POSSIBILITIES

Alderman Hamilton Douglas, chairman of the urban renewal committee, assured the group that the city is dedicated to solving the relocation problem for all persons displaced, whether by urban renewal or any other governmental action.

But he admitted that the problems have not yet been licked.

He said six possibilities are being considered as the answer to relocation.

1. Existing public housing which has a normal turnover of about 500 families a year:
2. Additional public housing.
3. Existing standard housing.
4. Newly constructed standard housing.
5. Relocation within the project areas, and
6. Low-cost, long-term mortgage houses built under Title 221 of the National Housing Act.

WORST SLUMS

The Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church, raised the question of whether or not the present urban renewal areas are the worst slums in the city.

Douglas said he thought they were among the worst and that the selection of the present boundaries was a wise choice on the basis of recommendations of city planners.

Col. Malcolm Jones, city urban renewal director, said regardless of the boundaries, the city might lose the entire federally-backed program if they were changed now. A federal government-imposed deadline of Dec. 15 for having final plans submitted "practically prohibits any major modification of boundaries at this time," he added.

Alderman Jesse Draper pointed out that "this is just the first bite" and promised that future urban renewal projects would take care of the other slums in the "Buttermilk Bottom" area which Rev. Borders emphasized.

Housing Program Faces Crucial Test

Battle lines are drawn for a crucial test for Atlanta's "221" low-cost housing program Monday when the Aldermanic Board considers a resolution aimed at halting the construction of low-cost, long-term mortgage houses.

Principal opponents of the redevelopment housing program, which forms the backbone of the city's urban renewal program, are members of the Fourth Ward Zoning Committee, who want "221" construction, particularly in their ward, halted.

The resolution affecting the construction of "221" houses throughout the city is expected to go before the board Monday. Mayor Hartsfield has said he would veto the measure if it passes.

Alderman Hamilton Lokey, chairman of the board's Urban Renewal Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Board have petitioned the board to oppose any action seeking to halt the construction of "221" houses.

PROPOSAL ILLEGAL

In a letter to unidentified aldermen, Friday said the move to hold up issuance of building permits for "221" houses until completion of the pending survey. He charged that the proposal is illegal and unconstitutional.

Mr. Hartsfield and the Citizens Advisory Board have also solocited support for continuing the relocation housing program. Hartsfield has vowed to halt the program if the resolution passes.

A "221" house is a low-cost, mortgage relocation house insured under Title 221 of the Housing Act. Such structures are supposed to sell for $9,000 or less to families forced to move as a result of slum clearance, urban construction and other governmental action.

Funds for relocation until December 15 are available for more than 1,000 families. Federal funds provide two-thirds of the city's urban renewal program.

The battle on "221" houses is a stumbling block in the path to meeting the deadline.

SLUM FIGHTER PALMER LAUDS HENRY GRADY

The intense interest of Henry Grady in the homes of the South and the nation was cited Sunday by internationally acclaimed Atlanta slum fighter Charles F. Palmer as the housing project named for the Reconstruction Period leader held its 17th anniversary.

Henry Grady III and IV were on hand for the anniversary celebration, during which a club room in the administration building of Grady Homes was officially named for and dedicated to Hubert M. Jackson, first manager of the project and present area racial relations aide for the Public Housing Administration. Mr. Jackson was present for the dedication, making the introduction of Mr. Palmer with whom he had worked during the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Nothing would have given Henry Grady more pleasure than to have seen the children playing as they are outside," Mr. Palmer noted as expressions of glee came from the playground outside. The numerous benefits from cleaner living in public housing projects were enumerated by the speaker.

Mrs. Maggie Howard, president of the Grady Homes Tenant Association, presided over the program which included the following participants :Mrs. Willie Belle Brown, chairman of Nursery School Board; the Grady Homes Youth Chorus, Prince Hall Masonic Glee Club, H J. Furlowe, director; A. F. Smith, manager of Grady Homes; L. A Diamond, first president of the Tenant Association; Henry W. Cantrell, superintendent of the Grady Homes, and Rev. Frank Jackson.

Guests present during the anniversary program were presented by Manager Smith. Seventeen - year tenants were presented to the gathering by Mr. Diamond, while Mr. Cantrell made awards for model apartments. Mrs. Irene Jones awarded special prizes.

17TH ANNIVERSARY, GRADY HOMES — Henry Grady III and Henry Grady IV, direct descendants of the noted Georgia journalist-humanitarian, sign the guest book Sunday following the 17th anniversary program of the Grady Homes, while Hubert Jackson (right) first manager, and Mrs. Maggie Howell, an original tenant and president of the Tenants Association, looks on. This scene took place in the newly opened "Jackson Room."

Aldermen Pledge Aid To Renewal Group

After an appearance before the Board of Alderman Friday afternoon, members of the interracial Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal received informal approval for $15,000 of a proposed $30,000 operational budget for the coming year.

Cecil A. Alexander, chairman of the Citizens Committee which was appointed by Mayor Hartsfield earlier this year, pointed out that his group needed funds to effectively aid "in carrying out Urban Renewal with a minimum of hardship to the citizens directly affected by the program."

Alexander said $15,000 or half of the proposed budget for the year, would be sought from individuals and private firms. He explained that the budget would cover the expenses of an executive director, a parttime public relations counsel, a part-time community relations assistant and a secretary.

Alderman John White, chairman of the finance committeee of the Aldermanic board, mentioned a "difficulty in increasing the city's budget next year, "but he admitted urban renewal was "with us" and promised that the money would be provided.

Board of Alderman President Lee Evans added, "By some way or other necessary funds for the program would be provided." The remaining aldermen present at the meeting informally agreed with Evans' position.

Name Ga. Homes For Scott Family

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A new housing subdivision under construction in Chatham county has been named in honor of the Scott family here.

Built under the supervision of the Federal Housing Administration the 100 attractive, modern houses will occupy lots 60 by 92 feet. They will have five rooms and a bath; hardwood floors, kitch cabnets built in, and natural gas furnaces.

Walter S. Scott, president of the Guaranty Life Insurance co., represented the family when the subdivision was created. Called Scottland, the new housing section, 36 feet abcve sea level, reportedly is one of the highest parcels of land in Chatham County.

The new development which is under FHA 221 gives buyers an opportunity to purchase a home with no money down and 30 years to pay at 5 1-4 per cent interest. Insurance, interest, principal and taxes are included in the monthly payments.

However, purchasers can obtain shorter terms and in so doing cut down on the interest. To date 19 homes are under construction in Scottland and the 100 are expected to be completed by the end of the year. A. L. King and Turner Inc., are developers of the subdivision.

Ezra Johnson, real estate dealer, is cooperating in the sale of the home.

Hungry Club Speaker

Assault On Slums Is Urged By Alexander

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES
(WORLD Managing Editor)

"Atlanta is at war! It is at war against the forces of unplanned, cancerous growth. History passes by the timid. If Atlanta doesn't make an assault on its slums and on misuse of land, our position as one of the leading cities of the world will fade away."

Thus spoke Cecil Alexander, chairman of the Mayor's Citizens Committee on Slum Clearance and Urban Re-Development, in an address Wednesday to the Butler St. YMCA Hungry Club.

Calling on all members of the Atlanta community to put aside differences and to join hands to wage this war," Mr. Alexander pointed out that the primary purpose of the program is to clear out slums through the combined forces of local and federal governments and private enterprise.

Atlanta is still in the planning stage on five projects, plans for set out to make known the voice of the people, to advise and be the sounding board of public opinion.

The Mayor's Committee, which leaves the ultimate decisions with the city and planners, has divided itself into committees concerned with rehabilitation, housing, land development, health and welfare and public information. An office at 70 Fairlee St. is to be set up and staffed to give information to the public.

Mr. Alexander said he was not in position to speak on the questions of total relocation and the segregation issue, which he admitted to be the "nut of the whole problem." He declared, however, that committees were studying and re-studying all the complex problems with a hope for ultimate answers and solutions.

'NO SLOW-DOWN' URGED

After reading a resolution for "no slow down" Atlanta's Slum Clearance program adopted by the Atlanta, Ga., Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Mr. Alexander concluded that he felt "encouraged that citizens

Mayor William B. Hartsfield Tuesday enlarged his Citizens Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal by appointing some 70 new members.

Letters of appointment went out late yesterday from the mayor's office to about 20 Negro and 50 white leaders. Mayor Hartsfield said the enlarged committee will represent "a bigger cross-section of the city."

The newly appointed Negro leaders include: J. B. Blayton, Sr., president of Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association; L. D. Milton, president of Citizens Trust Co.; E. M. Martin, secretary of Atlanta Life Insurance Co.; J. B. Blayton, Jr., director of Radio Station WERD; Bishop W. R. Wilkes, A.M.E. Church prelate; C. R. Yates of the Yates-Milton drug stores; W. H. Aiken, contractor; Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College; Mrs. Grace Hamilton, executive secretary of the Atlanta Urban League; Rev. A. Franklin Fisher, pastor of West Hunter Baptist Church; Robert A. Thompson, of the Atlanta Urban League; Joseph T. Bickers of Bickers Realty Co.; R. O. Sutton, secretary of Citizens Trust Co.; C. A. Scott, editor and general manager of the Atlanta Daily World; Dr. Rufus E. Clement, president of Atlanta University; Mrs. S. F. Crank, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA; Dr. Albert E. Manley, president of Spelman College; T. M. Alexander of Alexander & Co., Inc.; and Dr. Richard C. Hackney, president of the Atlanta Medical Society.

One other Negro was appointed but his name was not released. The three original Negro members of the nine-member committee appointed last January 17, were Q. V. Williams, president of the Empire Real Estate Board, Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, and E. L. Simon, superintendent of agencies for Atlanta Life.

Committee Chairman Cecil Alexander will retain his position in the enlarged committee, the mayor said.

The mayor's appointments followed the recommendations for enlargement made by the members of the original committee. The purpose of the committee is to advise the mayor on the city's multi-million dollar urban renewal projects

Q. V. Williams, one of the original appointees to the Mayor's Committee, was guest moderator for the Hungry Club session. A number of other committeemen were present and introduced to the forum group.

vices Saturday and Sunday. Rev Davis was guest speaker. The pastor, Rev. A. G. Henley had to be absent.

The funeral of Mr. Fleming Evans was held recently at the Mt. Perry Baptist Church. He was one of the oldest deacons of Mt. Perry. Interment in Church Cemetery. The Community Mission will meet with Mrs. Moon. The topic will be discussed by Mrs. Butler. The president will talk on Willing Workers. The North Western Association met at Barber's Creek Church, Statham, Oct. 2-5. Rev. Joseph Simms is the pastor. Rev. E. T. Smith is the moderator.

New Housing Bill To Aid Minorities

Special to Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The big housing bill proposal given the Senate's overwhelming approval Tuesday contains a series of high-priced considerations which will prove a boon to home-seekers in the minority and moderate income groups.

The proposals, a compromise between conflicting Democratic and Republican demands, also contain aspects which will step up slum clearance, boost the sagging mortgage market, and ease housing credit terms for not only minority groups and those with moderate income, but also older folk.

Basically, the Senate approved a bipartisan proposal lowering down payments for FHA homes.

The proposal was adopted by voice vote as an amendment to the $2,850,000,000 omnibus housing bill.

It calls for a three per cent down payment on the first $10,000 of FHA appraised value, 10 per cent on the next $6,000 and 30 per cent above that amount.

* * *

UNDER THE present FHA schedule, a five per cent down payment is required for the first $9,000 and 25 per cent above that figure.

Designed to spur lagging housing construction, the formula is more liberal than the administration proposal or one approved by the House. But some Senate Democrats had urged much greater cuts in down payments.

* * *

IT WOULD MEAN that a buyer of a $15,000 FHA home would make only an $800 down payment instead of $1,950 now required.

The plan was approved after Senate GOP Leader Sen. Homer Capehart of Indiana agreed to accept a modification offered by Senate Democrats to his amendment embodying the administration proposal.

* * *

CHIEF MONEY item is one billion dollars in slum clearance funds for the next four years with increased Federal participation in the urban renewal budget.

Another provision is designed to firm up the sagging mortgage market with $1,650,000,000 in new authority for the purchase of home loans by the Federal National Mortgage Association.

* * *

THIS INCLUDED 850 million in special assistance programs for cooperative and military housing, homes for old folks, minority groups and moderate income families.

Another 200 million dollars is provided to buy college housing loans.

New Laws Focus On Housing Bias

NEW YORK — Five new state laws against discrimination in housing, and similar bills introduced in nine other states this year emphasize housing as the major focus of civil rights forces in the North, reports the current issue of "Trends in Housing," publication of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington this year joined New York in enacting legislation outlawing discrimination in all publicly-assisted housing, including private housing which receives FHA and VA insurance.

Enforcement in each case is given to the state agency now administering FEP laws.

A CIVIL RIGHT

In addition, Minnesota this year enacted legislation declaring segregation and discrimination in housing to be against public policy and the opporunity to acquire housing on an equal basis to be a civil right.

A State Commission was set up to make recommendations for further legislation.

On June 7, public hearings were held in the New York City Council on a bill which for the first time would ban discrimination in private housing which receives no public aid.

Sponsored by the council's majority and minority leaders, backed by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, and with wide community support, the bill appears headed for early passage.

It would prohibit discrimination in all apartment rentals and in sales of single-family homes in developments of 10 or more

Another bill covering all private housing without limitations has been prepared for introduction in St. Paul, Minn. Groups in Philadelphia are now considering introduction of an anti-discrimination housing bill.

BILLS PENDING

Bills similar to those passed this year are pending in the legislatures of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut, Illinois and California. Others were introduced this year in Michigan, New Mexico and Maryland.

In New York State a bill banning discrimination in private housing was supported by the governor and a broad coalition of civil groups, but was not acted upon.

State legislation outlawing housing discrimination was set as the chief action target this year by human relations and civil rights groups working under the leadership of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

The committee has attacked federal housing programs' failure to dispense federal aids on an equal basis, and encouraged enactment of state legislation in the absence of more positive federal policies.

KEY TO QUALITY

More and more sources now agree that housing is the key to equality of opportunity for Negroes and other minorities in the North, "Trends in Housing" reports. Increasingly, Northern school segregation is found to result from restricted housing patterns.

In February, Housing and Home Finance Administrator Albert Cole announced that henceforth FHA will deny mortgage insurance to builders cited in violation of New York's Metcalf-Baker law, which bars discrimination in FHA housing. It is expected that FHA will follow the same procedure in the four states which have passed similar laws since February.

Under the New York law, which has been in effect since July, 1955, significant progress has been noted in opening housing formerly closed to minority occupancy.

A recent report by the New York State Commission Against Discrimination lists developments all over the state, formerly restricted to white persons, which now have some minority occupancy.

VALUES STAY

"The most important thing," says SCAD Chairman Charles Abrams, "is that developers have found they can accept Negroes into predominantly white communities without friction or loss of values. Their sales or rentals to white families have not suffered after acceptance of the first Negro families."

Housing anti-bias legislation was passed this year in Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington and New Jersey without sign of organiezd opposition. In all 14 states there was biprartisan sponsorship and support from a broad representation of civic groups.

At present, anti-discrimination laws affecting various categories of publicly-assisted housing are in effect in 10 states and 23 cities.

U. S. Official Raps Parley On Housing

WASHINGTON, June 17 (AP).— Federal Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole told the National Housing Conference today it is treating housing as a "political subject."

Mr. Cole, departing from a prepared text in a speech before the N. H. C., said the group is flirting with membership in the 'pot-shotters club.' He defined a "pot-shotter" as one who comes to Washington once a year, "lobs a shot over and then goes home."

The conference yesterday passed a resolution accusing the Administration of "failing to come to grips" with a two-year housing slump that it said he brought new home starts to their lowest point in nine years.

'Bi-partisan Program

Mr. Cole said the Administration's housin gprogram is "bipartisan." He called for "unbiased, intelligent" discussions on the matter.

In another speech to the group, Charles Abrams, chairman of the New York State Housing Commission, said the United States is a nation of the "great unhoused, mis-housed or dis-housed yearning to be rehoused."

He called for a ten-point program that would include bringing all Federal housing programs under the control of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

He recommended that Congress appropriate $2,000,000,000 for direct loans to low income families at interest rates ranging from zero to that charged by private firms.

Housing Bill Made Final

WASHINGTON — (INS) — The Senate Monday passed and sent to the White House a housing bill providing $1,950,000,000 in new federal authority to help take up the slack in home buildings.

The measure would give the administration authority to reduce FHA down payments to 3 per cent on the first $10,000 evaluation; 15 per cent on the next $6,000 and 30 per cent above that figure. The present schedule calls for 5 per cent on the first $9,000 and 25 per cent above.

Housing Deposit Cut Questioned

WASHINGTON, July 3 (AP).— Government officials said today there is a serious question whether the lower down payments permitted in the new housing bill would be ordered into effect even after President Eisenhower signed the measure.

The housing agencies favor the liberalized terms on home loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration, it was reported. But some top Administration advisers were said to oppose them for anti-inflationary reasons.

FHA SILENT ON BILL

Officially the FHA was silent. The bill authorizes—but does not direct—FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason to reduce the down payment to 3 percent on the first $10,000 of an FHA-insured mortgage.

Administration sources disclosed privately that some agencies now reviewing the bill find two grounds for opposition to the down payment terms.

These agencies argue that easier mortgage credit could add a little more spin to the inflationary spiral, and that home building has perked up recently without any help.

BUILDERS JITTERY

The home builders are jittery, nevertheless, and are aware of the contrary sentiment in some Government quarters.

George S. Goodyear, president of the National Association of Home Builders, issued a statement calling on Mr. Eisenhower not only to sign the bill, but to "direct" FHA to adopt the new terms.

QUICK ACTION URGED

"There should be no delay in making these terms available to the many thousands of American families who have been squeezed out of the housing market because they could not afford the large down payments under the old law," he said.

Lenders take the view generally that the bill could increase the demand for new housing, but would do very little to increase the available supply of loan money. A spokesman for the National Savings and Loan League predicted the bill "will do little if anything to raise the level of mortgage lending this year," regardless of the final decision on down payments.

Anti-Bias Housing Bill Is Argued

Realty Men See Loans Curtailed

By Richard C. Wald

Mayor Wagner joined thirty-two representatives of labor unions, civic groups and minority organizations yesterday to support a proposed City Council bill which would outlaw discrimination in private apartment houses.

But, in a five-hour non-stop hearing before the Council's Committee on General Welfare, fifteen opponents of the bill, led by the Real Estate Board of New York, contended emphatically that if the bill is passed, the lending institutions of the city would so curtail credit that "the withholding of mortgage funds would probably become critical."

Bill's Provisions

The bill was introduced on a non-partisan basis by Majority Leader Joseph T. Sharkey, D., Brooklyn, Minority Leader Stanley M. Isaacs, R., Man., and Earl Brown, D., Man. It provides that multiple dwellings in private ownership could not bar prospective tenants on the grounds of "race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry." One and two family homes would not be affected, although groups of ten or more such homes owned by one person would be. It has been estimated that 1,787,000 apartments would be affected.

Mayor Wagner, in a statement read before the Welfare Committee during its hearing in the Council chamber at City Hall, urged that the bill be passed so that New York City could "show the way" to the rest of the nation. "We can speak in behalf of freedom and democracy throughout the world only if our own house is in order," he said.

In view of the Mayor's strong support of the measure and the interest shown in it by the party leaders in the Council, it seemed certain that the committee would report it out favorably at an executive session in time for passage at the Council's next meeting, June 18.

Pike Urges Passage

Others who spoke in favor included the Very Rev. James A. Pike, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, who said that 93 per cent of the city's housing is segregated and "We are in danger of becoming a walled city. The Harlems and East Harlems could very well expand in the next few years to become the Ghetto of Manhattan, set apart by rivers from the white and non-Puerto Rican population."

Among other groups which favored the bill were the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the New York City C. I. O. Council, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Liberal party, the Women's City Club, and various religious groups.

Speaking against the proposal, to an audience of 200, were many real estate and commercial groups. James Andrews of the Real Estate Board called it "a mischievous piece of folly," and said he did not believe the city had the right to curtail a landlord's choice of tenants.

Others who opposed it, including representatives of the Associated Builders of Greater New York, taxpayers groups, chambers of commerce and the West Side Association of Commerce, stressed the difficulty of financing housing in areas where minority groups reside.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Flight Of The First Stone

BENJAMIN MUSE
The Washington Post

THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER, which never misses an opportunity to remind its readers of the physical, mental and moral shortcomings of Virginia's Negro citizens, devoted most of its editorial page on June 26 to a depressing report on Negro illegitimate births.

The editorial began with this observation: "The figures which appear on this page are not the sort of figures you are likely to find in the New York Times or The Washington Post." It added that it would be a good thing if The Times and The Post were to devote some thoughtful reflection to the

"REVEALING figures prove not only the fact that one out of every seven of Negro births in Virginia in 1957 were illegitimate. They underline the distressing fact that the rate of Negro illegitimacy is increasing — has increased almost every year since 1935, when it stood at 7.12-58

"Many disturbing considerations could be advanced. One is the fact that more than 90 per cent of the white families in Virginia — and less than 60 per cent of the white families—have incomes below $3,000 a year. Illegitimacy is prevalent mainly among the poor and the ignorant.

"Negro illegitimate Negro babies also have white fathers. But the thing which makes statistics of illegitimate births alarming as an index to sexual immorality nowadays is the widespread use of contraceptives. The sin of adultery does not lend itself to charting and tabulation.

"THE EASY VIEW of immorality so clearly reflected in these figures," says The News Leader, "constitutes one of the obvious reasons why white parents are bitterly opposed to race-mixing in the schools."

What a view of immorality indeed! In many, many—how many among the habits and conditions of men in the streets of Washington or New York—are qualified to cast the first stone? Suppose we should try to segregate the pure from the impure and segregate the sinners.

How many faces, how many familiar faces, would appear in the wrong enclosure! Our Negro neighbors would be lost in the white multitude.

The extent to which the morals of white people are corrupted by the proximity of Negroes is a question which cannot be answered without a great deal of research, if at all. To draw any rational conclusions it would be necessary to examine the illegitimacy records of the many states which do not practice segregation and compare the records in localities where both white and Negro are enrolled in the same schools with those of otherwise similar localities where there are no Negroes.

HOWEVER, SOME items appear in the News Leader's own itemized tables to which that paper has further directed attention that may deserve some thoughtful reflection.

In Charles City County, where four out of five persons are Negro, there was not a single white illegitimate birth during 1958. In the county of the next largest proportion of Negroes, Sussex whose population is 65.6 per cent Negro, the white registered not a single illegitimate birth. In seven other counties, King and Queen, Middlesex, Northumberland, Powhatan, Southampton and Surry, the white record was spotless. These are counties of from 40 to 63 per cent Negro populations

On the other hand, what do we find in the counties where a Negro is rarely seen? In Buchanan, where the census takers found only 10 Negro inhabitants, white illegitimacy was 3.6 per cent, considerably above the white average. In Dickenson, Giles, Lee, Rockingham, Rockbridge, Shenandoah and Pulaski—all counties of insignificant Negro population — the white illegitimacy rate was from 4.2 to 5.5 per cent.

And what happened in Greene county, where only one out of seven inhabitants is a Negro? Seven and a half per cent of the white births in Greene were illegitimate!

The explanation of this curious pattern lies in the fact that most counties with few Negroes have large elements of poor and ignorant white people. Quite apart from the question of segregation, these poor whites, no less than our backward Negro people, are a burden on the economy — and the conscience—of Virginia.

See Editorial "Misuse of Statistics" on Editorial Page.

Misuse Of Statistics

ON THE first page of this issue of the JOURNAL AND GUIDE is reprinted an article by Mr. BENJAMIN MUSE, who writes on "Virginia Affairs" in the Sunday issues of the *Washington Post*. Mr. MUSE discusses in a dignified and informed manner an editorial exploitation of "statistics" on the illegitimacy rate among Negroes, by the *Richmond News Leader*.

The frequent publication of an alleged compilation of such figures and comments by extreme segregationists and nullifications such as the *News Leader*, is done in the interest of their cause. It is done without regard for all of the facts involved.

Many well-meaning people use available statistics gathered from biased and unbiased sources, or gathered by hyena-like propagandists, in order to prove or disprove a point in favor of racial discrimination, or derogation.

The veracity of the statistics depends upon their sources. For the past four years a bloc of the nation's press, of which the Richmond paper is a leader, has carried on a relentless war against the Negro race. The intent of this vicious crusade has been to provide a media for the massive resistance movement and persuade northern and western people to hate and fear Negroes as this type of extremist and professional southerners do. In the final analysis their hope is to restrict the powers of the Supreme Court as to preclude rulings upon individual and personal rights now guaranteed Negroes and all citizens by the Constitution of the United States. They hope to do this by congressional action and constitutional amendments.

Mr. MUSE graciously named some "mitigations" in connection with the exaggerated illegitimacy slander. The editorial luminary on the *News Leader*, seems to have missed quite a deal of the native background of southern history, especially as it relates to the "way of life" which he so furiously defends.

One thing MR. MUSE did not mention, but which should be viewed as a mitigation, or in extenuation, of the concepts of the family as found among some Negroes—far too many—had its origin in the moral code of the slave masters.

For the total period of slavery — 246 years — the Virginia laws, and those of other slave states forbade the marriage of a Negro male to a Negro female. There was no such thing as family life among the slaves. *It was forbidden by law*, just as laws forbade the teaching of reading and writing to Negroes.

But Negro males and females were encouraged and often forced to cohabit sexually. The offsprings from such relations were property of the slave masters, and upon reaching the proper age, many were sold to cotton planters in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. Frequently among those sold were youths who were the children of white fathers who promiscuously exploited their slave women sexually, or who maintained a "back-yard" Negro concubine, by whom he raised a family. There were 1,500,000 Negroes with white fathers when the Civil War ended.

From such a history as this; from such human experience. it is foolish to suppose that a suppressed and oppressed and constantly villified minority group could wholly recover in a few generations.

Aided by the legislatures and the courts, the one refusing to enact proper laws, and the other refusing frequently to consider that a Negro girl can be raped, bastardy occurs in Virginia and other southern states more often than is the case in better educated states with higher moral standards.

In Mississippi, NAACP Charges:

'Whites Foster Illegitimacy

JACKSON, Missss. (ANP)—Negro women "cannot walk in their neighborhood without being molested by some white man," the head of the Mississippi branch of the NAACP charged last week.

Modgar Evers, executive secretary of the NAACP, made the remark in answer to the Jackson Daily News' editorials pointing out the high bastardy rate among Negroes.

Evers said, "Certainly we in the NAACP do not condone the illegitimate birthrate that is alleged to exist in our country and state, just as we do not condone segregation and discrimination, but the Daily News overlooked the real reasons."

EVERS SAID the great number of illegitimate births among Negroes is the result of plantation owners who "reared two families, one legitimate, one illegitimate; plantation owners who encourage illicit love among Negroes, and Negro men and women being herded together like cows and brought to this country as slaves many years ago."

S. C. Negro Illegitimacy Increases

COLUMBIA (AP)—The rate of illegitimate births in South Carolina rose slightly among Negroes in 1957 and declined slightly among whites, the State Bureau of Vital Statistics said Tuesday.

The bureau said 24.79 per cent of the Negro births recorded in the state last year were illegitimate. The illegitimacy rate among Negroes in 1956 was 24.07 per cent.

The number of illegitimate Negro children born in South Carolina last year was listed at 6,814—compared to 6,778 in 1956.

The rate of illegitimate births among whites last year was 1.80 per cent, the bureau said, compared to a rate of 1.92 per cent in 1957.

The bureau said 645 illegitimate white births were recorded in South Carolina in 1957 as against 683 illegitimate white births the previous year.

The state's overall illegitimacy rate, including both Negro and white births, was 11.69 per cent in 1956 and 11.77 per cent in 1957.

Ban Sought For State Aid To Illegitimates

BY CLARKE STALLWORTH

State Sen. Roland Cooper of Camden said yesterday he will propose a law which apparently will knock illegitimate children off Alabama's welfare rolls.

"This bill is similar to a law Mississippi has and it seems to be working for them," said Mr. Cooper. "You will recall that several of us tried to pass this type legislation in 1957."

COOPER

Cooper's proposed law would change the act, passed by the Alabama Legislature in 1951 which set up the state and county welfare systems.

The only real change, however, would be to the "aid to dependent children" section of the law. Cooper's law would add these words to the law:

"It is provided, however, that no assistance shall be paid on behalf of a person living with his mother when said mother has had an illegitimate child after receiving aid under this act, and after the effective date of this act unless and until satisfactory proof has been presented to the county board showing that the mother has ceased her illicit relationships and is maintaining a suitable home for the children."

Another clause of the law says:

"Aid to dependent children shall be payable (to any needy child) who is living in a suitable family home meeting the standards of care, health and morals, fixed by the laws of this state and the rules and regulations of the state department (of welfare) . . ."

In plain words, the bill says that:

1. A mother may not receive state welfare money for a child if she does not have "a suitable family home meeting the standards of care, health and morals."

The decision as to whether the mother has "a suitable home" apparently will be made by the County Pension and Security board.

2. A mother may not receive money from the state for a dependent child if she has had an illegitimate child after receiving state aid.

3. A mother, having been knocked off the welfare list, can get back on the list and receive state funds by discontinuing her "illicit relationship" — getting married.

Southside Slum Program Creates New DPs Class

PRAIRIE SHORES APARTMENTS

Sometime before the end of the year, 550 families located in a 17-acre tract on the Southside, will be ousted from their homes and relocated in other sections.

This mass exodus, under the direction of the Chicago Land Clearance Commission, is part of the vast redevelopment program for the Near Southside, which in a few years is expected to wipe out all slum areas north of 35th st.

What effect does slum clearance have on the lives of the people who must move to make way for progress? How do they feel about the towering structures which are rising in place of the old tenements?

The first reaction is uncertainty. Many of the thousands of families which have been displaced in the redevelopment projects had lived in the same homes all their lives.

Suddenly, they are faced with the necessity of having to find new living space, of adjusting themselves to new neighborhoods and sending their children to different schools.

Despite all-out efforts by the commission to provide relocation service to displaced families, problems still remain, not only for the families but for the whole community.

Chief among these has been the effects of sending additional families into already overcrowded areas, thus creating new slums and setting the stage for another mass exodus.

Perhaps the strongest feeling among residents who suddenly find themselves uprooted is resentment.

They argue, with much justification, that it is next to impossible for them to move back into the projects which have been built on the sites where they once lived.

The Prairie Shores project, extending from 26th to 31st st., between S. Parkway and Michael Reese hospital is part of a 54-acre tract in the Chicago Land clearance's Project No. 7.

A total of 886 families were relocated from this area, and more than 200 buildings were razed to provide space for the housing project and for extensions to the Reese medical center.

Few of the former residents can afford to pay the rents charged in such projects as Lake Meadows and the new Prairie Shores low-income families were evacuated to make room for these projects.

Consider rental priorities in Prairie Shores. First preference will go to Michael Reese hospital employees, students and doctors. How many of the thousands of persons displaced by the project fall into these categories?

It is forgivable that many persons feel resentment toward a program which seems to neglect those least able to afford decent housing. It is understandable that hostility develops when a family is uprooted to make way for better housing which it cannot afford.

The Land Clearance commission has developed a revolutionary program for the Southside. The area between Cermak rd., 35th st., State st. and the Lake will be a showplace, with beautiful buildings, new schools and lovely parks.

But in the process, thousands of people will be crowded into other areas, barred by high rents from returning to the sites where their homes once stood. As the redevelopment program continues, new slums will rise as a result and new programs will have to be developed.

To the people who can afford to live in them, Lake Meadows and Prairie Shores and whatever project will rise in the new area bounded by Michigan ave., Prairie ave., 29th st. and 30th st., are welcome indeed.

But, to thousands of other families who need housing badly, these grand new projects have brought no hope at all.

NEGRO PUSHES FIGHT AGAINST SLUM PROFITS

Real Estate Group t Hold Seminars

BY ROI OTTLEY

Dempsey J. Travis, newly elected president of the Dearborn Real Estate Board, Inc., an affiliate of the National association of Real Estate Brokers, a Negro organization, is a vigorous opponent of slums.

Travis

"There is profit in slums," he declared. "Until that profit is removed, there will be people to perpetuate slums."

Seminars Are Planned

Under his administration, the Dearborn Real Estate board will conduct seminars at churches on the south and west sides to educate the Negro public on housing problems and how to protect themselves against speculators.

His chief objectives will be to gain recognition for Negro real estate men, educate Negro home owners, aid Negro home owners in forming block groups, increase mortgage markets for Negro owned property, and to expand the insurance market.

He plans to work particularly for open occupancy in housing and to campaign for representation of Negro brokers on local and state housing planning boards.

Does Big Business

Travis, who operates his own real estate and insurance brokerage firm, is licensed to buy and sell in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois. He sells annually some 2 million dollars worth of property, places about $300,000 worth of fire and auto insurance, and manages 70 buildings.

Travis, who employs 20 people, was born in Chicago in 1922. His father, Lewis, was a mechanic. Young Travis attended Willard Elementary school and graduated from Du Sable High school in 1939.

Plays Jazz Piano

His father decided he should have a musical education while in high school. He learned to play a jazz piano and headed his own band, known as the Jack Travis Troubadours.

In 1942 he entered the army. When he returned to civilian life, he enrolled at Roosevelt university, where he graduated in 1949 with a B. A. degree. He was attending Chicago-Kent Law school when he decided to become a real estate broker.

A Specialized Field

When selling insurance became a part of his work, he enrolled at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is now in his fourth year, learning the highly specialized field of certified property casualty underwriters.

Travis, a member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, is vice president of the Chicago Insurance Brokers Association and the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Board of One Hundred for Roosevelt university.

He is married to the former Moselynne Hardwick.

Drop Southside Housing Plans

Plans for a $34,000,000 housing project on the Southside were withdrawn by the Chicago Housing Authority Wednesday after Ald. Emil V. Pacini (10th) withdrew his support from the proposal.

The project would have occupied two sites: 87th, 89th, Mackinaw and Burley, and 88th, Avalon Harbor and Greeley. It is almost entirely populated with Negro families.

It was stated that opposition to the plan came from landlords who own property in the area.

Negroes Joining Move To Suburbs

The call to the suburbs, already answered by millions of their white fellow citizens, is luring more and more Negro Chicagoans away from big city congestion to the peace and quiet of outlying communities.

Increasing numbers of Negro families are hopping over the city limits to settle in ultra-modern homes developed by builders who are eagerly appealing to the tremendous Negro market for moderately priced homes obtainable with a low down payment.

Far from roughing it, residents of such developments as the Park Terrace Homes in the nearby village of Markham, Ill., enjoy complete city services including modern schools, convenient shopping facilities, regular police and fire departments, city installed sewage and drainage systems and well paved, lighted streets.

The new suburbanites boast of the wholesome atmosphere in which they are now raising their families and are pleased that they have encountered none of the hostility that occasionally plagues non-white newcomers to some Chicago neighborhoods.

Park Terrace residents can commute by car, suburban bus, or trains serving the community at 162nd Street and Wood Boulevard. Other outlying areas attracting Negro residents also offer economical commuter service.

While the trend to the suburbs is still in the budding stages, it is expected to grow with the construction of the new Cal-Sag-Channel which will bring world wide shipping and new multi-billion dollar industry to Chicago's southern perimiter.

Mayor Modifies Statement On Southside Slum Housing

Mayor Daley apologized Friday for not including Negro insurance men and real estate dealers in a meeting Thursday with representatives of the Chicago Real Estate board and the Chicago Mortgage Bankers association.

He also declared that sub-standard housing is not an area problem, but a city problem.

The meeting was called after the recent fatal Southside fires in an effort to prevent similar tragedies.

Representatives at Friday's meeting hoped to avert the mass cancelation of insurance in this area after the outbreak of recent fires and Mayor Daley's reported statement that the entire Southside is "fire prone."

GIVES LIST

Daley repudiated the statement by giving the group a 12-page list of sub-standard properties.

The Mayor added that he realized that sub-standard properties were an individual thing and did not apply to the whole area.

A spokesman for the Mayor told the businessmen that when the meeting was set up Thursday he thought the Chicago Real Estate board included Negroes.

The Mayor invited the group back to join in the meeting scheduled for Feb. 20 and he asked the Dearborn Real Estate board and Chicago Insurance Brokers association to present a plan for redeveloping the area.

HARRIS SPEAKS

George S. Harris of the Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Insurance company, pointed out to Daley that he was concerned with the attitudes of casualty companies toward the Southside area because his concern has more than $4 million invested in the community.

His company does not want to be the victim of mass cancelation of fire insurance policies.

"Of more than 300 companies writing casualty insurance in Illinois," Dempsey J. Travis, a vice president of the Dearborn Real Estate board and a vice president of the Chicago Insurance Brokers association, told the Mayor, "less than 20 have considered writing Negro risks in any number."

The executive added. "This was prior to the statement declaring the 22nd through 71st area was a fire hazard. Since then probably many of these companies will refuse to accept business in the area which will further limit fire markets for Negro risks."

Citing an example, Travis said that as recent as Jan. 29, an insurance company refused to accept a fire order because of the recent headlines.

A ray of hope was thrown into the meeting by Ald. William Harvey who said an executive of the Insurance Writers association promised there would be no mass cancelation of fire insurance in the so-called blighted area.

A possible solution for rehabilitating the fire hazard areas was offered by Ripley Meade, president of the Dearborn Real Estate board. He explained that if a "stop payment order" was called by the mortgage company, it would enable the owners of sub-standard properties to have them vacated and the necessary repairs made.

Others attending the meeting were Aldermen Ralph Metcalfe, Kenneth Campbell and C. W. B. Holman, Truman K. Gibson, chairman of the board of Supreme Liberty Life Insurance company; Bolin V. Bland, real estate editor of the Chicago Defender, and Atty. George W. Crank, general counsel of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers.

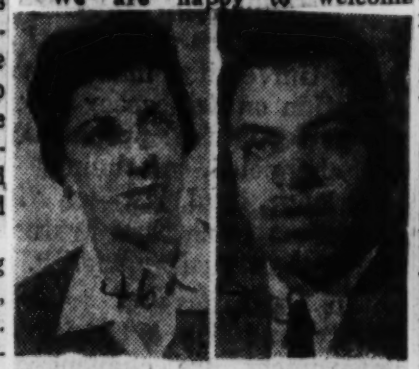
Civic Group Has Two New Workers

Beginning Feb. 1, the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference will employ two full time block directors, James V. Cunningham, executive director, announced this week.

George James, who has been with the conference on a part-time basis since April, assumed full-time duties Jan. 1. He has been working with block organization and urban renewal activities in Kenwood and South West Hyde Park.

Mrs. Eleanor Fackler joins the staff on Feb. 1. She was formerly employed by the Cook County Department of Public Health. Her 10 years of experience with community organizations have included development of health and welfare programs and volunteer recruitment.

"We are happy to welcome



E. Fackler G. James

community," said Cunningham. Mrs. Fackler to the staff and the "With the release of the final urban renewal plan expected within 30 days, and with the tremendous job needed to preserve the character of our neighborhood, we will be making full use of the experience she and Mr. James are bringing to the job."

INDIAN-KLAN WARS OVER

Negro Politician, Chemist Has Big Job Of Helping Race, Slums In Washington

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (AP)—Now that the Ku Klux Klan-Indian wars are over, Sterling Tucker says he thinks some attention should be paid to the progress being made in better race relations.

As you know, Washington has its problems. Its schools lag behind the national level. Within the shadow of the Capitol there is housing so terrible Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore) has said he would not let his cow live there.

All in all, a man like Tucker isn't likely to run out of homework.

For Tucker is executive director of the Washington Urban League, a national organization set up half a century ago to help Negroes moving to the city.

AWAY FROM CHANGE

Tucker doesn't go along with what he believes are the extremes, those who shy away from change and those who think everything should happen at once.

"We're too moderate for many peope," Tucker said. "But we're a fact-finding organization, and we try to see what a community can do at its local level.

"As I see it, these aren't Negro problems They are community problems. If we have slums, we have delinquency and that hits us all since we can't hem crime within the boundaries of a neighborhood. If a man can't get a job he goes on relief, and we all pay."

Right now, Tucker is reporting a small triumph. It won't make as many headlines as the KKK-Indian war, but in the long pull it could have more significance.

Tucker and others have been after airlines to change a policy in which Negroes were hired only for menial chores. Recently a New York line hired a Negro hostess. And Tucker has persuaded four of 12 airlines here to hire Negroes.

"They're not out front yet," he said. "But if you call in to check on your reservations to Chicago or Omaha, you may be talking to a Negro."

Eight airlines said they could not take the step. "They said they were primarily Southern-owned or their executives were from the South, or they had other problems. But one executive told me he would make his own experiment. He said he would take on a Negro as his secretary and see how it worked out."

How does one go about changing social habits that we've had for years?

Tucker appeals to economic motives. "We don't moralize. We don't say this is the democratic way. They know that. And we never say, 'Hire a Negro.' We say 'Hire the best man available for the job.'"

NEGRO SALES GIRLS

Tucker likes to concentrate on businesses having trouble finding help. The local department stores advertised steadily for help during the Christmas season, and Tucker tried to persuade them that the advertising space could be better used to sell their products since qualified Negro girls were available.

He hasn't got far. No major downtown Washington department store has hired a Negro sales girl.

But whenever Tucker gets pessimistic, he can consider his own case. He graduated from Akron University, a chemist who understood rubber. But no company wanted a Negro chemist so he drifted away.

Later, policies changed. One company found that a chemist with the skills they wanted had been working for them 10 years as an elevator operator.

Recently Tucker got a call from a company that once had turned him down.

"They wanted me to work for them," he said, "in their personnel department."

NEGRO TENANTS DERIDED

100 Whites in Chicago Hold Street Meeting Protest

CHICAGO, March 30 (AP)—A group of white residents on the South Side held a street meeting today to protest the presence of Negro tenants in three buildings in the block.

Extra police were assigned to the area, the 6700 block on Carpenter Street.

Lieut. Donald Keevers, who estimated there were 100 white persons in the gathering, said there were no acts of violence. The police were called to duty as a precautionary measure, he added.

A few hours before the meeting began another Negro family moved into the block.

Lieutenant Keevers said that the crowd blocked traffic on Sixty-seventh Street and that a false alarm was sounded, but that there were no other incidents.

Carpenter Street at Sixty-seventh is in the Englewood District, an area that has been undergoing change since World War II. Some Negro families already reside a few blocks east of Carpenter and elsewhere in the district.

Church Groups Tell Views On Urban Renewal Plan

While criticism of the current Hyde Park-Kenwood Urban Renewal Plan continued to mount, the principle of urban renewal gained another supporter this week when the board of directors of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago announced that it favored the plan in principle.

At the same time the Cardinal's Conservation Committee cited its objections to the present plan and made several recommendations for clarifying and improving the program.

Other views on urban renewal were aired Wednesday by some 100 persons who attended a meeting of the Association of Community Councils. Herbert Greenwald, a community developer, attacked the city and the planners stating that 85 per cent of the places in the areas should be eliminated and then rebuilt.

DEFENDS PLAN

Maynard Krueger of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community conference, defended the area's renewal plan declaring it was far in advance of any other offered in any community and that its aim is to have a high-class interracial neighborhood.

He admitted that it is not perfect, but explained they were doing the things best for the community.

The Cardinal's Committee position is that certain negative elements in the plan should be eliminated or at least minimized. It also suggests:

1. Land be cleared only as it is needed. (4,528 families or 20,000 or more persons will have to be relocated in other communities because of the proposed clearance in Hyde Park-Kenwood.) These people should be moved in stages over a period of years.

LOW INCOMES

2. Every effort be made to insure that some of the new housing built in Hyde Park be within reach of families of small and intermediate income.

3. The plan's provision on rehabilitation should be clear and precise. (Currently, the plan permits future clearance of buildings having "obsolescent layout as to interior and exterior." Another section calls for rehabilitation to meet the "provisions and standards of this Urban Renewal Plan" without setting forth what these standards are.)

Homeowners and landlords should know exactly what they must do to comply with the conservation program, the Cardinal's Committee declared.

4. The city's housing supply must be jealously guarded by a close scrutiny of the demolition proposals. (48 per cent of the 641 structures designated for clearance are not substandard. 150 are proposed for clearance in order to make way for schools, parks, churches and shopping. Of the structures not being cleared for these purposes, one-third (33.8 per cent) are sound structures.

NO PLAN PERFECT

The Cardinal's Committee explained that it knows no perfect plan can be made, but it believes the present plan can be improved and that the above recommendations will do that.

James V. Cunningham, director of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community conference says the "community goals are to achieve a stability under the high standards of the Hyde Park area and the main features of the conservation plan are necessary to reach that goal.

The area is located between 47th and 59th sts. and from Cottage Grove ave. east to the lake. A total of $39,000,000 has been pledged to begin its rehabilitation. Most of that sum is to be used to acquire run down buildings and sell the land to re-developers.

Our Opinions

Defender
Chicago Ill.

The Urban League And Urban Renewal

The problems incidental to housing in Chicago have been made unduly complex. It is a kind of complexity that serves as a convenient shield for the hypocrites who want to retain the line of racial demarkation while waving high the banner of liberalism. Fortunately for us, the segregationists in this metropolis are being flushed out. This is being done by a new type of leadership which is provided by the Chicago Urban League. Sat. 7-26-58

One of the ablest analyses yet made of urban renewal as it affects this city's Negro population, is embodied in a lucid report made public recently by the League. It represents an honest attempt at clearing the air of much smog, flapdooles, and downright deceit. For the first time and in language as plain as it is antiseptic, is exposed unflinchingly the colossal failure of public officials to face up to the grim realities of the housing muddle. P.10

The study confirms and documents the editorial views expressed by the Chicago Defender over a long period. It helps to enlighten our contention that the Negro in search of adequate housing is in truly tragic situation.

With statistics, charts and maps to support the premises and conclusions, the League's document points to the ugly pattern of racial segregation into which urban renewal and relocation have been ingeniously inlaid. Heretofore, public outcry against the bold and deliberate scheme to circumvent existing code and keep Negroes confined to an over-populated black corral, had been unavailing. But this systematic expose by the League should demolish once and for all the pill-boxes of lies and deceptions behind which our city planners and housing experts have taken capricious refuge.

Population trends, relocation, residential segregation, the anguish of displaced families, code enforcement, responsibilities of local government all are included in a searching clinical examination. The disquieting indifference of city officials to the hardships of dislocated families is one of the most disturbing aspects of the slum clearance program. Yet, it is a social problem whose urgency cannot be minimized without serious untoward consequences.

There are no reasonable plans calculated to give Negroes equal access to the whole housing market. Yet, Negroes, according to the report, constitute the overwhelming majority of the displaced families. In short, urban renewal, as analyzed by the League, cancels out "much of its great potential for good by forcing new slums to develop in place of those it clears."

The League views with alarm the absence of a substantial program," even in the formative stage, to provide the necessary homes available to Negroes, either by private enterprise or public action.

"Negroes in Chicago who are able to buy or build homes are largely cut off from normal selection and normal financing." It is therefore obvious that the process of relocation, compatible with community needs cannot be achieved without a major change in policy on "an open market basis."

The report urges reorganization and centralization of administrative functions in the light of a new definition of authority. It also recommends appropriate government agencies such as the Land Clearance Commission and Chicago Dwellings Association to assemble tax delinquent and other vacant lands to provide decent housing for those displaced by slum clearance. The League argues that relocation of displaced Negro families should not be limited to Negro areas. It calls upon the Mayor and other responsible government leaders to declare and promote "a policy of open occupancy and a free market in housing."

Previous housing studies have been academic, misty and have tended, perhaps not without design, to gloss over the race issue as though it did not exist. This Urban League's report ties neatly all the relevant aspects of a crucial problem without trying to be profound or rhetorical. It may not cause the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down, but it should open the gates to a decent democratic community for all who wish to abide.

Housing pattern cause of segregated schools

Tribune 7-26-58 p. 2 col 2

Ltr 46a

CHICAGO—Morris Milgram president, Modern Community Developers, Inc., of Princeton N.J., declared that "the root of segregated education in most schools of our major cities is the prevailing pattern of segregated housing."

"This is the key roadblock to fulfillment of the Supreme Court decision on school integration," said Milgram in a statement released to the press in conjunction with his participation on the housing panel of the Catholic Interracial Conference at Mundelin College.

Milgram said that "integration of schools will be needlessly difficult and fortuous,

He's Helping Rebuild A City

By ERNESTINE COFIELD

Ten years from now when inspect their "ideal communit Negro architect to thank for of it.

Architect planner for ment Foundation's $21 million urban renewal program, which does not include the buildings, is 29-year-old Wendell Campbell. The native East Chicagoan is responsible for designing the homes, apartment buildings, park sites, street layouts, map work, etc.

Approximately one third of the city will be effected by the redevelopment program, which will take about eight years to complete. The urban renewal program has been divided into three projects and work has already begun on the first and largest one.

Project No. One, which involves 5,500 dwelling units on 366 acres of land is the most comprehensive renewal program in the country at the present time and is a pioneer effort for Indiana.

East Chicago is under special the citizens of East Chicago y," they will have a young planning and designing most

Purdue Calumet Develop-

scrutiny by communities all over the country because it is the only one whose urban renewal program is being financed equally by the local government, industry and a state institution, Purdue university.

Another reason why the program is being watched so closely is that the city is unique in that it has more than 60 ethnic and racial groups with different cultural backgrounds and degrees of assimilation into an industrial and urban way of life.

Some call it the "melting pot of the world" and it is believed to be the steel capital of the world.

Perhaps most significant of all, the region contains examples of practically every social, economic and political condition and problem known to modern industrial society.

The urban renewal plan is also considered unique in that the families that are moved out of the areas will be moved into a new

Rev. Williams Faulkner Faul

60 unit apartment building or relocated temporarily and will be moved back into their old neighborhoods.

Working with a skeleton staff, Wendell has a full time draftsman and two high school student trainees under his supervision. He is assistant to T. S. Bunsa, general director of the foundation and works under Mace Winigger, director of planning. He is the only Negro in a professional capacity on the staff of 12.

At present, the young architect is also working on master plans and surveys for the neighboring communities of Hobart, Hammond, Whiting and Munster. He will design the permanent building that will house the foundation.

When the foundation was established two years ago, the former East Chicagoan paid it a visit to learn more about its plans.

"It involved the community I had grown up in and it intensified my interest in the project."

Officials became interested in Campbell and offered him a job.

WENDELL CAMPBELL

He accepted and resigned his position with Sidney H. Morris where he had worked as a draftsman and junior designer during the five years he attended Illinois Institute of Technology.

This is not Wendell's first job in the building industry of East Chicago. He worked with his father, Herman, who has been a contractor for almost 40 years. Even while attending Washington high school, where he earned letters in football and track, Wendell knew what he wanted to do.

On completing high school in 1945 he served in the army in the Pacific and Japan and after getting out of service at the end of 16 months, he attended Indiana university Calumet Center for a year.

He started as a part time employee with the General Engineers and Designers in 1950 and was one of the architects who designed Supreme Liberty Life Insurance company. Wendell still works part time with the firm.

Active in civic and social affairs, Campbell is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and is past junior grand vice polemarch. He was polemarch of Alpha Rho chapter for two years while a student at IIT.

He is a former president of the East Chicago youth branch of the NAACP and has held several offices in the regional organization. Campbell is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

His hobbies include cabinetmaking and hypnosis. He designed and made almost all of the furniture in his Chicago home and a newspaper article has been written about his demonstrations in hypnosis.

Someday, Wendell said he would like to have a business of his own and design low income housing developments.

He is married to the former June Crusor of Chicago, who is a kindergarten teacher at Farren elementary school.

Laughingly Wendell said, "My wife took a course in interior designing at IIT last year so that she would know what I was talking about."

The young architect is one of six children. One of his sisters, Mrs. Jean Martin, lives in Ethiopia.

Gives Views In Struggle Over Joliet Housing Plans

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. L. H. Holman is president of the Joliet branch of the NAACP. He has been one of the leaders in the struggle over public housing in Joliet. Here, he expresses his opinion of the status of the housing program.

By DR. L. H. HOLMAN

JOLIET — By its action in killing a public housing proposal on Irving Street, the City Council exposed the true feeling of some of its members, all of whom have tried to hide under the disguise of moderates and liberals. The tactics used by some of the members would make Senator Talmadge, Eugene Cook and Senator Eastland proud of them.

Even though there is little hope there will ever be any other projects erected after the present ones are placed in all Negro areas, the council has driven a point home to minority groups and that is if you have enough votes or pressure, their services can be bought.

The forces of private enterprise and mob mass hysteria were clearly evident. It is not denied by realtors in Joliet that it is the national and local policy to oppose public housing. The only reason they will give is that "It is socialistic." Councilman Bell states, "you would not be happy in areas where there are few, if any Negroes."

Realtors readily admit their discrimination is against Orientals, Jews, or Mexicans if they feel it would not be "in the best interest of the community.' This policy of containment pays off. Ask any member on the south side or in the north end how much he paid for his home and how much he has paid to keep it in a livable condition. Rather than be taken by some realtors many minority citizens would rather buy a New Car, at least they will have something of which to feel proud.

Not a single Negro has been able to buy a new home in Joliet built by the many builders in the area. They all claim they will build you a home if you have a lot, of course the down payment will be higher as will the interest.

Banks and lending institutions also exert pressure on public housing and reap the benefits.

The NAACP knows of no veteran in Joliet who is receiving a "G. I." loan. We have on file one person who was paying $39 interest and $1 on the principal of a loan by one lending institution.

What will happen to the 500 families who will lose their homes when the freeway comes throug? Te answer is simple: Negroes and Mexicans will be relocated outside the city, losing their right to vote and the benefit of fire and police protection. White citizens will be able to buy where they please in new areas.

On July 8th the City Council voted to approve the Irving Street project. For the first time in the 10-year history of the housing authority it looked as though an integrated site had been chosen. For three weeks no one objected to the projected.

After conferring with Councilman Daniels it is rumored that members in the community three and four blocks away began to oppose the project even though Negroes and whites adjacent to the site did not. Further inspiration was given the mob after talking with other councilmen. It is rumored one of the councilman wants to be Mayor and this area represents 500 votes.

Negroes at this time were proud of our Mayor, Councilman Barney, Wilson and Fredricks who assured them they would not change their vote for the housing sites. At a closed session, at which time the white press was invited but a representative from the Negro press, The Negro Voice, was denied entry, the most inflammatory remark made by any council man was made from a written statement by Councilman Bell. Here I quote direct:

1. "We, the members of the City Council of Joliet, believe that it was not only unfair, but absolutely untrue to say that the reason the people in the immediate area surrounding the proposed public housing project on the near Northeast side of Joliet opposed this development was because of racial prejudice."

2. "What are the facts with respect to public housing in Joliet from the standpoint of racial consideration. The number of units of public housing at present built on Water Street is forty-six. By units, we mean apartments for families. All but six of these apartments are now occupied by colored people. In the housing projects which have been approved and which are soon to be built on South Desplains Street and on York avenue there will be seventy-six more units or apartments practically all of which will undoubtedly be occupied by colored people. This means that since a total of 500 units of public housing were deemed necessary for Joliet based on the study of housing needs made a few years ago, that Negroes already have allocated to them more than one fifth of all the public housing originally contemplated for our city. Considering the fact that approximately ten percent of our population is Negro it would appear that Negro families have already been alloted more than their just share of all the housing that is built or planned for Joliet."

"What we should be working toward in our community and throughout all America is to get every family that we can — colored as well as white — into a home of their own."

This is the same man who stated Negroes were happier living in slums and run down housing.

Some 90 percent of the people waiting for public housing are Negroes. In a community where 81 percent of industry discriminates against hiring non-whites and stores like Grants and the A&P on the south side tell you, you can trade but not work, is it any wonder they constitute 90 percent?

The council now advocates two new sites both outside the city limits both in predominantly Negro areas.

The only people on the City Council willing to stand up for what they believed in was Councilman Wilson and Councilman Fredricks. Councilman Fredricks canceled a scheduled vacation in order that he could vote for integrated housing.

Councilman Wilson feels that if the city has an Urban Renewal Program, which it is now contemplating, it will solve the low income housing problem for both White and Negro. However, Urban Renewal usually means tearing down Negro areas moving them outside the city and selling the razed property to private enterprise at give away prices.

Pressure tactics were used

until we practice democracy in housing — until housing is made available generally on an open occupancy basis."

Modern Community Developers, the first national corporation devoted exclusively to integrated housing, will lend financial and advisory assistance to groups planning integrated housing.

"We have a practical goal of equal housing opportunity for all, as demonstrated at Concord Park, Greenbelt Knoll, Glen Acres and Maplecrest," Milgram said.

"Not a dime of our funds nor an iota of our guidance will be supplied for aiding or abetting ghettoes, whether all-white or all-colored," he concluded.

House supporters of the bill termed it workable. Opponents charged that it would open domestic industries to further onslaughts from foreign competition and afford them no sure relief from economic distress.

The four-year extension would be the longest ever granted by Congress in the 24-year history of the trade program. It has been renewed 10 times in the past but never for longer than three years.

The key section of the bill would enable the President to sign trade agreements providing for tariff cuts of up to 20 percent at any time up until June 30, 1962.

Other nations would have to make similar reductions. The cuts could be spread over the succeeding four years, meaning they might go into force as late as June 30, 1966. But the reductions could not exceed 10 percent in any one year.

Congress for the first time would be granted power to set aside Presidential vetoes of tariff commission recommendations

OSCAR C. BROWN LONG ACTIVE IN NEGRO HOUSING

BY ROI OTTLEY

Oscar C. Brown, attorney and real estate broker, has made significant contributions to the housing developments of the south side for more than 30 years. He has been a leader in legal actions which outlawed residential covenants and permitted expansion of the Negro neighborhood.

Brown

"The great inspiration we receive today is the thrift that Negroes have demonstrated to obtain money to acquire real estate holdings in Chicago," he said.

"Negroes are meeting their obligations, even tho the prices were exorbitant and the terms were especially severe. Before long, they will own large areas of Chicago real estate."

Runs Housing Project

From 1938 to 1942, he was manager of the Ada B. Wells Homes, Chicago's first Negro public housing project which contained 1,662 units with 7,000 residents. During World War II, he managed Altgeld Gardens, a project for war workers with 1,500 units and 6,000 persons.

He simultaneously managed the West Chesterfield housing project with 250 single family dwellings. He later became supervising manager for all three projects, serving from 1944 to 1946.

Brown left public housing to become executive vice president of the Midway Television Institute. He resigned in 1952 to establish the Oscar Brown Real Estate corporation.

Attended Howard U.

The Negro leader was born in Mount Holly, Ark., Dec. 22, 1896, one of nine children. His parents, Sterling and Laura Brown, were school teachers. Young Brown received his elementary schooling in Edwards, Miss., where the family settled. He attended the high school of Howard university, Washington, D. C., later enrolling in the university, and was graduated in 1920 with a B. A. degree. He also received a B. S. cum laude in 1921, and in 1923 finished law school cum laude.

His first position was as assistant trust officer for the Citizens Trust and Savings bank, Atlanta, Ga. He resigned to move to Chicago and join his brother, Sydney P. Brown, former member of the board of education, who had graduated from Northwestern university law school.

They established a law firm in Chicago in 1925, known today as Brown, Brown, Cyrus and Green. Meantime, he became business manager of the

Douglas National bank, a position he held from 1926 to 1930 when he returned to full time practice of law.

Active in Organizations

Brown served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1940 to 1944, when the organization reached a peak membership of 19,000. He also has been president of the Chicago Negro Chamber of Commerce and was one of the charter members of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community conference.

He is a member of the Southeast Chicago commission's executive board, a member of the Chicago Urban league's board of directors, and a board member of the citizens' school committee. He is a board director of the Chicago chapter of the Red Cross.

Brown, a trustee of Pilgrim Baptist church, is married to the former Helen Lawrence, who once was a Norfolk school teacher. They have a son, Oscar Brown Jr., a daughter, Mrs. Helen Hudson, and seven grandchildren.

NEGRO SINGER AIDS HIS RACE LIVE DECENTLY

Thigpen Helps Manage 4 Housing Projects

By ROI OTTLEY

Zeno Thigpen, who has worked for the Chicago housing authority eight years and is assistant manager of four west side projects, believes the city serves a fundamental economic good by providing shelter at rents low income families can afford.

Thigpen

The Negro executive assists Thomas Boaz, manager of the Jane Addams Houses, Robert Brooks Homes, Loomis Court, and the Grace Abbott Homes, which contain 3,171 units and more than 12,000 residents.

Average Pay $65

Thigpen reports that nearly 85 per cent of the tenants are Negroes. Thirty-two per cent of the tenants receive some form of public assistance. The employed families are mainly unskilled laborers, earning an average of $65 weekly.

The Negroes who occupy these projects come mainly from Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, and Georgia. The average resident has occupied an apartment more than five years, and some as long as 20 years. There is not more than a 25 per cent yearly turnover in tenancy.

Need is the basis for renting a project apartment. Project residents often are envied by Negroes living in the surrounding areas, mainly because they pay less rent and receive superior services.

Once Concert Singer

Before joining the CHA, Thigpen was a concert singer. He has appeared with the Royal Opera company in Liege, Belgium, and given concerts in England and the United States. He won third place in a Chicagoland Music Festival tryouts as a bass baritone.

He recently became vice president of the American Sub-Saharan Enterprise, which plans to market American products in the Negro republics and territories in Africa. The firm will mainly export farm equipment.

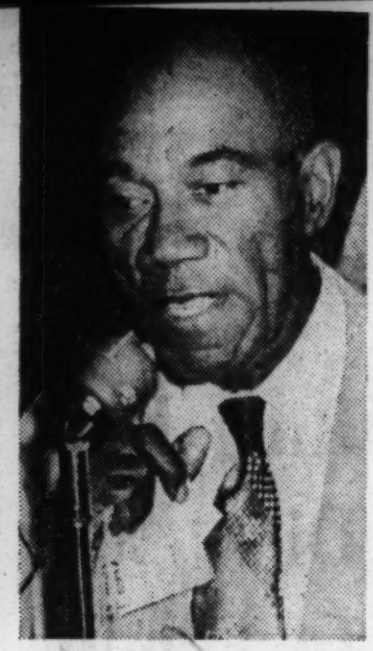
Thigpen, a bachelor, was born in Westfield, N. J., Oct. 8, 1921, one of four children. His late father, Zeno, was a dietitian; his mother, Carrie, is a school teacher. One brother, Calvin, a chemist, is a Virginia public school teacher; his other brother, Leland, a biologist, is employed by a Washington, D. C., pharmaceutical firm.

Overseas Army Vet

Thigpen attended elementary school in Henderson, N. C., where his family settled during the depression in the 1930s. He later enrolled in the Ben Franklin High school in Philadelphia, where he played football.

After his graduation he entered Ritten House college, Philadelphia. He also started to manufacture women's garments. This was interrupted by service in the army in Europe during World War II.

He was mustered out as a sergeant. He studied at the University of Chicago, and in 1950 joined the CHA staff.



—Herald Staff Photos by Doug Kennedy

Zoning Issue Brought Out Many Speakers

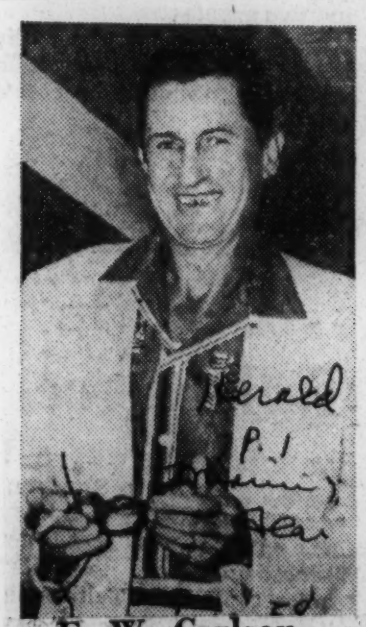
... Mrs. John Peek and Herbert Munnings were on opposing sides.

Races Unite, Whip Apartment Zoning

By CECIL MANN
Herald Staff Writer

White and Negro residents of a Northwest section neighborhood united Monday night to defeat a proposed ordinance that would have allowed apartment construction in their area.

It had been predicted that the issue would be explosive, but of the 200 persons who jammed a meeting of the Miami Planning Board, only 14 were in favor of the zoning change.



E. W. Carlson
... he favored change

The board unanimously rejected the ordinance, which would have allowed apartment house construction between NW 55th and 60th Sts. and NW 12th and 17th Aves.

In doing so, the members went against their own board chairman, E. W. Carlson, who disqualified himself in the voting after saying he was in favor of the change and that it was "close to my heart and pocketbook."

Carlson is a resident of the area. But he said it would not be proper for him to vote and he left the meeting.

The residents who were in favor of the proposal said they were living in a section where apartments were only a block away. They said they were being penalized by the zoning because they cannot sell to apartment house developers.

One of the residents, Mrs. John W. Peek, of 1345 NW 58th St., angrily declared that "they keep saying if you allow this change the area will be turned into slums.

"In my section we are already living in a slum. They're mostly shacks there now. We want to be able to get some cash out of our property and move out."

Mrs. Peek said she understood why residents south of 58th St. were against the change and said they should not have been included in the proposal.

"But you gentlemen should do something for those of us living north of 58th St. who cannot sell their property now. We don't want to hurt anyone, but we need this change."

A standing vote on the proposal showed that all the Negroes and most of the white persons at the meeting were against it.

Herbert Munnings, one of the Negroes, said the issue "is a very simple one. It will mean that the slum area will be allowed to spread to sections where both the colored and white folks have nice homes."

A surprise speaker of the evening, David I. Hawthorne, an avid segregationist, also spoke out against the proposal.

"Why allow these developers to move into this area where both the colored and white people now have nice homes?" he asked. "Many Negroes are paying hard cash for their property and they don't want to see it turned into multiple dwellings."

The group gave him a big round of applause.

Board Member Joseph X. DuMond Jr., who made the motion rejecting the zoning change, declared "we don't want to take the position that as soon as colored people move into an area we automatically are going to change it for multiple apartments."

And another member, Louis Mitchell, said "the meeting tonight is an encouraging one to me — the way you colored and white people have come to settle this. It's really a revelation to me and I could not possibly vote for the change."

Will Negroes Get Fair Deal In Hyde Park?

EDITORIAL NOTE: What is planned for the Negro in Hyde Park? Is the multi-million dollar renewal program a blind to oust minority residents of the Lakefront community? To get an answer to these questions and others, the editors of the Chicago Defender asked the executive director of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference to write a special article setting forth his and the organization's views on the subject.

By JAMES V. CUNNINGHAM
Executive Director Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

Residents of Hyde Park-Kenwood — having labored up to 10 years for neighborhood betterment — look upon the area's redevelopment plan as a necessary tool for achieving a stable interracial community of high standards.

The new urban renewal plan, widely publicized in the press the past 10 days, calls for drastic action, including demolition of 638 buildings, some because they are blighted, some to make space for new schools and parks.

Sound structures that are just beginning to deteriorate would be rehabilitated. Vast new construction would bring 4,700 low homes and apartments, 50 new parks and playgrounds, school buildings for an expected increase of 3,000 students, new off-street parking facilities, new convenience shopping centers, and a new street pattern designed to get through traffic off interior residential streets. Over 30 percent of buildings in the area would be retained.

This new plan — sponsored by the Community Conservation Board of Chicago — would take up to $30,000,000 in government money, and require another $90,000,000 from private owners, developers, and institutions. It represents a pioneering attempt to conserve an aging neighborhood before it becomes a slum.

An earlier program in the same neighborhood, known as Hyde Park Projects A and B, under jurisdiction of the Chicago Land Clearance Commission, is already well along, with 47 acres cleared near 55th and Harper avenue. Construction of 250 row hohses, 550 apartments, and a large shopping center will begin on this site within four months.

Racial implications of Hyde Park-Kenwood redevelopment are plain: if plans are carried out the city's first integrated neighborhood can result; if the plans fail Hyde Park - Kenwood will likely become just another overcrowded, segregated part of Chicago.

Studies made in 1950 by the National Opinion Research Center showed the Hyde Park - Kenwood urban renewal area — stretching from 47th to 59th, east of Cottage Grove — contained 36,204 white persons and 27,420 Negroes and other non-white persons.

Since that date the number of white residents has slowly decreased, while the number of Negro residents has increased.

This is the first neighborhood in Chicago history which, after nine years of racial change, has remained more than 50 percent white.

In the Hyde Park A and B projects, where clearance of 1,700 living units has taken place, occupancy when the clearance began was more than 80 percent white.

Conservation Board planners estimate occupancy in the 6,147 living units to be demolished under the new plan as 59 percent Negro and 41 percent white.

Today the neighborhood is almost solidly Negro at its western and northern edges, almost solidly white at its southern and eastern edges, with a large interracial center core.

The A and B projects have removed a large clump of blighted buildings running close to the southern edge.

New housing on this site will bring mixed occupancy to what has been a white area, and it will come under the most favorable circumstances, in brand new high-standard housing, with strict controls against overcrowding.

This fact, plus the climate of good race relations built up in the neighborhood during the past 10 years, should insure against panic and flight and bring interracial living to the southern end.

The new plan calls for some large scale clearance of blighted

A third major redevelopment plan proposed for the area is the private South West Hyde Park plan of the University of Chicago which would clear 566 units, containing a population that is over 80 percent Negro.

If all three plans are carried to completion the racial balance in the neighborhood by 1963 is likely to be around 50 to 60 percent white, 40 to 50 percent Negro, with a much more integrated residential and shopping pattern than at present.

Open occupancy is required by law in all new housing built under such plans. Many of the finest sections in the all-white eastern section, and the all-Negro west and northern sections. All three areas will be rebuilt with attractive new open occupancy housing.

The University's South West project near 55th and Cottage would be rebuilt with 200 to 300 units of housing open to married students regardless of race.

White and Negro residents of the Hyde Park - Kenwood neighborhood have worked together since 1949 in the Hyde-Park - Kenwood Community Conference.

Through this organization, they have sought to stop blight, to prevent flight, and to build good relations between the races.

They work together in 53 block organizations, on various committees dealing with schools, parks, recreation, planning, real estate, and every facet of community life.

Working for an interracial community has been an uphill fight. There has been flight, and there has been discrimination in the neighborhood, and these things still exist — but they have been greatly diminished.

During the past ten years most of the churches, many of the private schools, and several other institutions in the neighborhood have become integrated.

The most successful businesses of the community, including the Hyde Park Coop, the Accent Shop and others have integrated staffs.

The board of directors of the Conference, and of the South East Chicago Commission are integrated, as are the clerical and professional staffs of the Conference, and the planning staff of the Commission. PTA's of the area have worked hard, and in many cases successfully, to further the development of interracial schools in the area.

A renewed neighborhood will be more attractive and desirable and consequently more expensive. Many may be excluded because of economics. But the principle is being established that none will be excluded because of race.

Employees, students, and faculty members of the University of Chicago have long participated in the work of building an interracial community of high standards.

Because its business office has a history of having supported restrictive covenants, the University has long been suspect in the minds of many.

Since 1951 the University has had new administrative leadership which works on the principle that to attract a first-rate faculty and student body the University must be surrounded by a physically attractive neighborhood, and that the occupancy of this neighborhood will either be interracial or all-Negro — there being no alternative.

The administration believes it cannot continue to operate a first rate university if the neighborhood deteriorates, or if it becomes segregated. So the University has pushed urban renewal very hard.

There are a few elements of the new plan which worry residents —and on which changes will be sought.

One is the location of new public housing in one concentration along Cottage Grove between 47th and 51st.

Conference leaders fear this concentration will merely create a little segregated neighborhood all its own. They favor scattering the public housing throughout the neighborhood.

Ultimately, most leaders of the neighborhood, Negro and white alike, realize that even with a completely rebuilt and shiny neighborhood they will not keep it uncrowded and integrated unless the vast, overcrowded segregated areas surrounding Hyde Park - Kenwood are given relief through city-wide, or preferably metropolitan - wide open occupancy.

Hence, many leaders of the community are in the forefront of the fight for open occupancy.

Reflecting the feelings of most residents, the Hyde Park Herald in announcing the new redevelopment plan, stated on Feb. 19, 1958,

"This expenditure of money and human discomfort should be made only for a justifiable cause. The Herald believes that we have this cause. We believe that a demonstration that neighbors of all races can live together in a community of peace and self-respect is worth whatever price must be paid. We hope that such a demonstration will serve as a guide to the rest of our city and nation."

The redevelopment plans for Hyde Park - Kenwood will be hotly discussed for many months. To residents of the area, they are not perfect, but they are considered absolutely essential if Chicago is finally to have a stable, integrated residential community.

Chicago, Ill. Defender Sat. 3-8-58

Aerial View Of Hyde Park-Kenwood Urban Renewal Area

Chicago Rallies To Aid Of Destitute Migrant Family

"I can't get over it. They gave us all this." Mrs. Byrd Burns cried as she looked around the room of her "new" home where bundles of clothing, boxes of food and toys were scattered around. "As soon as the furniture comes I can get the place fixed up," she said apologetically.

Her 14-year-old daughter, Byrd Lee, and her 16-year-old daughter, Flora, smiled as they watched their youngest sister, Ethel Mae play with a doll a neighbor had given them. David Lee Burns, the first-native-born-Chicagoan in the family of 13 slept quietly in the corner of the room unaware of the move his family had made, unaware of the world around him.

Their "new" home was the apartment provided by Robert Allen, the deputy mayor of Bronzeville and his wife.

Bishop Louis H. Ford pastor of St. Paul Church of God in Christ, heard about their plight and he sent over much needed furniture.

When Sample Pittman, assistant director of migration services for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations made initial contact with the family after reading of their plight in the Defender, he found the family of 13 living in 1 1-2 rooms without heat, food or clothing.

He contacted Mrs. Virginia Shields, president of the Donkeyettes, and Mrs. Tennell Barton, the business manager of the Donkeyettes and they agreed to contribute food and clothing.

Mrs. Maud Dennis, 20th Ward committeewoman also sent food and clothing. Jack L. Cooper, pioneer radio personality, sent cash, and George McCoy, a local mover offered to move them to their new home.

"Everything happened so fast I don't know if I'm going or coming. I can't get over it — the kindness of strangers who have done so much for us since they read about us in he paper. People have dropped by with groceries and money," Mrs. Burns continued with tears in her eyes.

"We came to Chicago because we heard that everyone had a chance to make a living. We always thought of Chicago as the promised land."

"As soon as our oldest boy, Wilson, got a job we came here. My husband got a job picking chickens, then he worked at a service station. Thirteen of us were living in that one-and-a-half room basement apartment and things weren't too good, but it was better than Mississippi. Then the bottom fell out.

"Byrd and Wilson lost their jobs and we couldn't get on relief because of the short time we had been here. We didn't know what to do. But one thing was sure, we wouldn't go back to Mississippi," she said vehemently. "We couldn't go back if we wanted to; nursing, wanted to come up here to go to school. She should make a good nurse, she is so helpful with the children. Byrd Lee likes to draw. Wilson hopes to go to school nights after he finds a job. to school properly dressed because of the generosity of the people in "Defender-land," she said smiling.

Ella, 12, and Mary who is 10, Ernest, who is six and Byrd, Jr., who will be 9 years old the first of March had to go to Tupelo, Miss. to live with my mother and my brother.

"Byrd asked me if he could be back here in time for his birthday. How long they will have to stay in Mississippi I don't know. But we won't worry about that problem now. We won't worry at all because we have so much to be thankful for."

KEYS TO HAPPINESS — Members of the Burns family are all smiles as they accept the keys to their new home and a new life from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allen (at left). Allen is the Deputy Mayor of Bronzeville. Delighted with new home are Wilson Burns, 18; Flora, 16; Byrd Lee, 14, and Ethel, 2, held by Mrs. Burns as her husband accepts the keys. Three-week-old David is in bassinet. Defender staff photo.

They are (from left) Mrs. A Buford, leader of the Lola Mill Circle, Pleasant Gift Baptist church; Mrs. Berenice Howard, chairman of National Association of Colored Women's Courtesy Commision; Mrs. Cora B. Starks, True Light Baptist church; Mrs. Cleo Powe, Mt. Eagle Baptist church; Mrs. D. L. Buckner, Pleasant Gift Baptist church; Robert Allen, Deputy Mayor of Bronzeville.

He said that workers who are hired for a few weeks on different construction jobs should learn, and write down in each case, the company address where payroll records are kept. Being able to furnish this information will insure the worker the benefit of all wage credits earned in the previous year, Tichenor said.

Telephone books and city directories have been made available to workers when applying for benefits and every effort will be made to help them in this important respect, Tichenor promised.

FEAST, NOT FAMINE — Defender readers have come through again. They've seen to it that the Burns family shall not be hungry. Some of those coming to the aid of the destitute family are shown in photo.

ty Mayor of Bronzeville, a member of Olivet Baptist church; Valena Ellis, president of H. W. Evan club, St. Paul CME church; Hattie Rackard, Lemon Powe, Mrs. Gussie Wright of Olivet Baptist and Raymond Jackson, Shiloh 7th Day Adventist church.

ALDERMEN MAP HOME RENTAL RACE BIAS BAN

A proposed ordinance to ban racial discrimination in rental of apartments in privately owned buildings with more than two dwelling units is under consideration by two aldermen.

Leon M. Despres [5th], an independent, and Claude W. B. Holman [4th], a Democrat, said it will be at least 90 days before the ordinance is introduced, and that they expect it to be referred to the council judiciary committee for more study.

Bid for Support

A preliminary nine page draft of the measure, expected to be a political hot potato, has been circulated among members of the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, and religious, civic, and community organizations in bids for support.

Despres said copies have not been sent Mayor Daley, the city law department, or such organizations as the Chicago Real Estate board and Chicago Association of Commerce because "we hate to give them a raw, vulnerable draft."

Holman said many of the aldermen consulted had hesitated to indicate whether they would support such a measure.

Seek Help of Keane

Both said they would like to have Ald. Thomas E. Keane [31st], an administration leader, as a co-sponsor because as Despres explained, "people sore at us might vote against it."

A similar ordinance was enacted in New York City over bitter protests. Holman and Despres acknowledged there are a number of legal problems connected with such a measure which must be worked out.

"This is not politically inspired," Holman said. "It has nothing to do with the coming elections. It is not intended for rabble rousing. It is intended for humantarian reasons only."

Holman was the sponsor of a recently enacted ordinance banning discrimination in a long list of places such as restaurants, hotels, cemeteries, and private recreation facilites.

Blames Segregation For Fire-Trap Living Areas

Residential segregation in Chicago was blamed this week for many of the slum conditions which caused the tragic deaths of 13 South Siders, most of them children in three fires.

The charge was made by NAACP President Theodore A. Jones in statement which called on city officials to eliminate the policies, "both public and private, which are responsible for residential segregation of Negroes in Chicago."

Pointing out that there must be "some gradation of violations or conditions considered prime hazards" which should be promptly and vigorously enforced, Jones declared that "the profit motive induces property owners to engage in this illicit traffic.

"Such profit can be removed by the imposition of substantial penalties wherever violations are found and by making available to Negroes and others in need of housing, standard, adequate dwellings now vacant throughout the city and by new construction," he said.

In a four point program, the recently elected NAACP executive demanded:

1—Definition of critical building code violations which call for immediate correction and whenever such corrections are not made in 30 days, severe penalties be enacted or the violations be corrected by the city at the expense of the property owner.

2—All other code violations be given reasonable but specific time to be corrected and severe penalties be applied in such corrections are not made where the violation is overcrowding and that the alternative to such penalties be correction by the city at the expense of the property owner.

3—Elimination of policies and practices, public and private, which are responsible for residential segregation of Negroes.

4—That the various city departments, civic organizations as well as private resource groups be called together to develop a coordinate plan for city and private action to provide the means by which housing starts may be stimulated in quantity and erected by standards adequate to meet the growing needs of the city.

In a similar statement made to thee City Council Committee on Housing and zoning, Julio Vivas, executive director of the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, recommended passage of a city ordinance requiring that owners of multiple unit dwellings register with the building department.

This measure, passed by the council Jan. 18, arose from repeated instances of violations of housing ordinances that could not be blamed on individual slum owners because of what Building Commissioner George L. Ramsey described as a "legal curtain" that shields them.

Speaking for Lawndale residents, Vivas declared: "Our people have pride of ownership. We live in a nenighborhood worth saving: Unfortunately, many of the multiple dwelling unit buildings in Lawndale are owned by landholders who wilfully disregard the building, housing, health, zoning and fire laws."

He cited the GLCC code enforcement program which in a four month period, has unearthed 74 such violations. "Our experience has demonstrated the validity of the position our mayor and our building commissioner have taken," Vivas said. "We re-ordinance."

In another development of the fight on slums, Mayor Daley in a letter to Daniel J. Faulkner, president of the Chicago Insurance Brokers Assn., denied he had labeled the entire South Side community a slum area and urged insurance companies to deny insurance protection on the property.

Meanwhile, the insurance brokers, acting upon a section of the published reports and radio comments on the mayor's proposal to clean up South Side slums, passed a resolution condemning that section of Mayor Daley's proposals, claiming that such a statement by a high public official would give "moral justification to prejudiced insurance company officials to continue their widespread practice of denying protection to owners of well kept properties, thus penalizing the innocent as well as the guilty."

Our Opinions

Defender p.10

The Ada S. McKinley House

In the last decade or so a number of social agencies in the South Central district have had to close up or undergo reorganization. Changing aspects of community life, shifting population trends and other social and economic phenomena form the complex of problems with which the Southside is yet wrestling.

Chicago Sun

The Ada S. McKinley House at 34th and Michigan, has had its share of besetting difficulties. Started in the early days of the first world war as a soldier's service center, with Mrs. Ada S. McKinley as hostess, the McKinley House changed its emphasis in order to better serve the increasing needs of the community. The evolution has been slow as it is with all institutions of like character. Despite the paucity of its financial resources, the center has managed to remain consistent with its case-work and referral service.

Jan 3-1958

For years, the burden of responsibility rested on Mrs. McKinley's shoulders. She had vision, and the energy that is born out of an inner spiritual strength, that gave her the needed propulsion to accomplish her tasks. She died in July 1952, the day following her participation in the cornerstone ceremony of the new building, named for her.

But her death did not alter the course of the program she had envisioned. The McKinley House's main efforts are directed toward rehabilitation and orientation of those who seek its services. It helps migrants to adjust themselves to patterns of Chicago living; it searches out and tries to reach the new comers and assists them in obtaining proper housing facilities and means of support.

The workers at the House get close to the people whom they are trying to help. They labor with them on the level of their understanding, and not on some ethereal plane compounding frustration with confusion. They serve families whose children begin to show behavioral problems. An attempt is made at developing the children's reading skill and other worthwhile interests as a form of therapy. There are classes in elementary education, in sewing and cooking at the House.

A great deal of energy is expanded toward educating the people on ADC to try to make a living from the sweat of their own brows and not make of public assistance a substitute for legitimate employment and self-help. One of the Center's major tasks is to see that children of ADC parents do not grow up in the relief pattern.

That the McKinley House has a place in the community is beyond question. However, it is desperately in need of financial assistance. With a $5,000 government tax lien against the building, the Center is faced with an herculean task to meet its obligations and keep its doors open. Its work is too important to be terminated through lack of community support. Its survival depends on how well the public responds to the plea for help. It would be an unpardonable dereliction of a moral obligation were the Southside to fail to rally to the cry of so deserving an institution.

NEGRO PUBLIC HOUSING AID IS TOP ENGINEER

Erskine Roberts' Work Widely Acclaimed

BY ROI OTTLEY

Before he moved to Chicago's south side, Erskine G. Roberts, supervisory engineer for the Public Housing administration, had served successfully as an executive engineer for several industrial and construction firms, and had done considerable institutional work in the south.

Roberts

Roberts now works under the direction of William H. Noble, operations chief, and specializes in mechanical and structural engineering. Roberts resigned a post as project engineer for Indiana's division of public works to come to Chicago.

Jan. 3-22-58

The Negro engineer, who helped remodel and rehabilitate public buildings thruout Indiana, received a citation from Gov. George N. Craig for "meritorious service, and for loyalty and devoted service to the people of the state of Indiana."

Chicago, Ill

Won War Job Awards

In World War II, Roberts received the army and navy 'E' award for the excellence of his work with such firms as P. H Mallory and W. C. Grant, companies with war contracts.

Prior to entering industry, Roberts was a field engineer and professor at Tuskegee institute and Howard university. He also was an engineering professor and supervisor of mechanical maintenance at Lincoln university, Jefferson City, Mo.

Roberts, a registered professional engineer, was born in Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 23, 1909, one of two children. His father, Erskine C., is a retired postoffice employee.

Specializes at M. I. T.

Young Roberts received his elementary schooling at Lewis Intermediate school. He enrolled later in Boston English High school and was graduated in 1926. He took mechanical engineering at Northeastern university, Boston, and finished in 1930.

His desire to specialize caused him to enter Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied structural and mechanical engineering. He finished in 1933 with an M.S. degree.

After his work as a college professor, he became an associate engineer for the federal works agency. Assigned to the power divison, he reviewed plans for power construction, buildings, plants, and utility distribution systems.

Establishes Own Firm

In 1947 he established his own firm, E. G. Roberts & Associates, and handled contracts with E. F. Cramer, a firm of general contractors. Meanwhile, he contributed articles to national engineering periodicals.

Roberts is married to the former Catherine Claughton, a graduate of Ohio State university and a medical technician. He has two children by a former marriage: Alice, 19, a student of Indiana university, and Erskine, 13, attending Shortridge High school in Indianapolis.

Roberts is a member of the American Society of Engineering Education, Western Society of Engineers, and the International Association of Bridge and Structural Engineers.

Met Agents Give $500 To Charity

The agents of Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance co., last week distributed $500 among three community welfare organizations, in one of the most generous moves made by an employee group without solicitation.

Benefitting from the agents' action were Washington Park YMCA the Southside Boys Club and the Fillmore Boys Club. Checks for $166 each were presented to officials of the three organizations by agents selected by their co-workers. The presentations took place in ceremonies in the three Chicago branch offices of the company.

Washington Park YMCA, located at 5000 Indiana ave., is one of several YMCA branches serving predominantly Negro communities, and was recently built with funds raised by the community. James D. Grantham accepted the gift for Washington Park YMCA from T. H. Smith of the agents group.

Southside Boys club, located at 3941 Michigan ave., is one of the oldest agencies of its type in the city. It is currently in the middle of a capital fund drive to build a new wing to replace worn out sections of the building. Horace C. Hall, president of the club's board of directors accepted the agents' donation from Leslie F. Thompson.

The Fillmore Boys Club is one of the most unique agencies in the city. A project of the Lawndale Citizens committee, the club is operated out of the Fillmore Police station, and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Located in a neighborhood in transition, it has an integrated staff. Robert Cox, treasurer of the club accepted the Chicago Metropolitan Mutual agents' donation from Harold Wells, during ceremonies which were also attended by Clifford Rees, club president.

CHA Denies Claim Of Cash Wasting

The Chicago Housing Authority has denied charges made by the public Housing Administration that it wastes a million dollars annually and is going in the red.

The CHA lashed back at the federal agency in an eight-page preliminary report released yesterday by Alvin E. Ross, executive director.

After a six-months study of the CHA's operation, the federal body had charged in a 32,000 word report—that the CHA was being "taken" by labor in Chicago for $800,000 annually and was wasting another $200,000 in other phases of its operation.

44 SUGGESTIONS

The CHA made 44 recommendations in its report which, if put into effect, would allegedly save the CHA $1,028,858 annually.

Rose said he estimates a credit $73,000 by June 30, 1958 and a credit of $600,000 by June 30, 1969. The PHA had estimated a deficit of $587,693 by June 30, 1959.

Rose stated that skilled mechanics are hired by the CHA accounting for the higher labor costs. He added that semi-skilled mechanics and laborers are employed to do this same work in Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit, Philadelphia and New York City.

HIGHER WAGES

Higher wages are paid to maintenance and janitorial employees in Chicago Rose added.

Rose—in his report—charged that CHA properties are in better physical shape than PHA claims Action had been taken on 12 items, as recommended in the federal report, six months prior to receiving the report in Chicago.

Rose said these changes would result in a $60,000 annual saving. The CHA report termed impractical the federal agency's recommendation of saving $355,500 annually by having tenants decorate their own apartments.